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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bulgaria

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-second session from 4 to 15 May 2015. The review of Bulgaria was held at the 8th meeting, on 7 May 2015. The delegation of Bulgaria was headed by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Katia Todorova. At its 14th meeting, held on 12 May 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Bulgaria.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bulgaria: Côte d'Ivoire, Ireland and Pakistan.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Bulgaria:

(a) A national report (A/HRC/WG.6/22/BGR/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/BGR/2);

(c) Summary prepared by OHCHR (A/HRC/WG.6/22/BGR/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Bulgaria through the troika.[1] These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that the national report had been prepared through a cooperative and transparent process with the participation of relevant State bodies and based on the valuable input of civil society representatives. The draft was published on the official page of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for broad public discussions.

6. Since its first universal periodic review, the Government has made efforts to implement the recommendations of the review and to enhance the capacity of the human rights mechanisms. Bulgaria submitted a voluntary midterm report in 2013. The delegation highlighted the significant progress achieved in strengthening the institutional and legislative framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.

7. In 2013, the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights was established in order to improve coordination among the relevant authorities and representatives of civil society in implementing the international human rights obligations of Bulgaria. Bulgaria introduced the practice of establishing working groups in the process of follow-up to the universal periodic review recommendations. The national human rights institutions had served as members of those working groups.

[1] Circulation by the universal periodic review secretariat of the advanced questions submitted by Sweden was delayed owing to technical reasons.

8. In 2011, the Commission for Protection against Discrimination and the Ombudsman were accorded "B" status by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions. The Ombudsman had been acting as a national preventive mechanism after the recent amendments to the Ombudsman Act.

9. Since 2011, the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues, a government consultative body, has been coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015.

10. The delegation stated that the recommendations of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) had been taken into consideration during the drafting of the Electoral Codes, which came into force in 2014.

11. The delegation stated that the Government paid special attention to all those recommendations that called for the reform of the judiciary as it considered judicial reform an important area for the protection of human rights. The recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers had been taken into consideration during the drafting of the 2012 amendments to the Judicial System Act. The updated strategy for continuing the reform of the judiciary, which was adopted in 2015, set the goal to modernize the judiciary and to complete the reform within the following seven years. The key priority of the reform was to provide full guarantees for the independence of the judiciary and ensure its effective functioning.

12. Progress was documented in setting up a mechanism for the compensation of those whose human rights had been violated. The Government had established a procedure for compensating citizens and legal entities for damages resulting from unreasonable delays in civil, administrative and criminal procedures. The National Assembly tasked the Government to submit an annual report on the implementation of the decisions of the European Court on Human Rights against Bulgaria. In 2014, the Government adopted a decision for a one-time payment of compensation to all individual complaints for which damages were recommended by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies. In 2015 the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights approved a legal mechanism for financial compensation following the recommendations of the treaty bodies on individual complaints.

13. During the reporting period, Bulgaria acceded to a number of international human rights instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The delegation expressed the commitment of Bulgaria to ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Bulgaria had presented its reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It had also issued a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council.

14. In the reporting period, Bulgaria had achieved progress in enhancing the national capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights. The human rights situation had improved, though certain areas required further efforts. Having that in mind, the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights had approved national human rights priorities that included the protection of the rights of the child, persons with disabilities and of migrants and refugees, enhancement of gender equality, the promotion of ethnic and religious tolerance and the effective integration of Roma.

15. The delegation expressed its gratitude to all those delegations that had submitted advance questions and provided the responses to those questions. In response to the influx of refugees in 2013, the Government had improved the living conditions of those in need of

international protection and constructed new facilities and infrastructure with a capacity of 6,000 people. Progress had also been documented in respect of the registration and the processing of requests for international protection.

16. In 2014, the Government had adopted the National Integration Strategy for Individuals Granted International Protection in Bulgaria (2014–2020), which paid special attention to vulnerable persons with specific needs and to unaccompanied minors. Children were provided with legal aid, health care and guaranteed the right to continue their education. With regard to the appointment of guardians or trustees for unaccompanied minors, a draft law which would allow the Agency for Social Assistance to appoint a representative of the child, was forwarded to the consideration of the National Assembly.

17. Concerning the questions regarding hate crime and speech, and intolerance, the delegation stated that its legislation provided for a solid legal framework for combating all cases of hate crime, racism, and xenophobia and the Criminal Code recognized each racial motivation as an aggravating circumstance in criminal offences. Draft amendments to the Code, introducing the criminalization of public incitement to violence or hate on religious grounds were being considered by the National Assembly.

18. There was a substantial improvement in the interaction between the Prosecutor's Office and the investigating authorities in identifying and reporting discriminatory motives at the earliest possible stage of pretrial proceedings. Although sexual orientation and gender identity were not explicitly defined as aggravating circumstances in the Criminal Code, such elements of the crime had been taken into account during the trial and the judgements of courts. In that respect, training was regularly provided to enhance the qualification of prosecutors. Public awareness measures were carried out to promote tolerance and to address hate speech and incitement to racial or ethnic violence in political discourse and in the media.

19. The National Roma Integration Strategy (2012–2020) was to be implemented in two phases: 2012–2014 and 2014–2020. Subsequently, 28 regional strategies and 220 municipal action plans for the integration of the Roma were adopted by taking into consideration the needs and specifics of local communities. The Strategy considered education the first priority of the integration policy. Efforts were increased to strengthen the integration of children of Roma origin into the general education system. Some measures were also taken to reduce school dropouts among the Roma children. The Ministry of Education and Science, in cooperation with the Regional Education Inspectorates and the municipalities, carried out monitoring of kindergartens and schools to avoid the formation of special classes for children belonging to ethnic groups.

20. Regarding the questions on prison conditions and overcrowding, the delegation stated that two new detention centres had been opened and a project had been implemented to improve the conditions of detention centres and prisons. The authorities had been working together with Norway on a joint project to introduce electronic monitoring of selected categories of offenders in order to reduce the number of prisoners.

21. With regard to the questions concerning the support of families with children with disabilities, and the juvenile justice system, the delegation stated that the legislation provided for equal opportunities and social inclusion of children with disabilities and that financial support was provided to families raising children with disabilities. Several measures had been taken to improve the legislation on juvenile justice.

22. Bulgaria had also been strengthening its measures to ensure non-discrimination and equal opportunities for people with disabilities, as well as their integration in all areas of public life.

23. Concerning lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, the authorities have continued to pursue consistent policies aimed at preventing and eliminating any form of discrimination, including against such persons.

24. With regard to the question on domestic violence, the delegation stated that the Government, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), had implemented measures to combat domestic violence. The Alliance for Protection against Domestic Violence provided for monitoring of compliance with international regulations and for ensuring maximum protection for the victims. Regular public campaigns and initiatives were carried out to raise public awareness on domestic violence and to increase knowledge about the existing protection procedures. The delegation also pointed to the social services in place which provided support to victims of domestic violence.

25. Regarding the question on the scope of sexual assault offences, the delegation stated that those offences were included in the legislation and that lack of consent was a necessary precondition for fulfilling the corpus delicti and the consent must be given based on the victim's free will.

26. In response to the questions on human trafficking, the delegation reiterated that the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings continued working with vulnerable groups, especially the Roma community, women and children. The Government had implemented several measures to prevent human trafficking for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation, provide assistance to victims of human trafficking, strengthen the prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking in women and children, and improve cooperation with the respective authorities of other countries in investigating transnational forms of trafficking.

27. The delegation emphasized that the 2015 Anti-Corruption Strategy established an independent anti-corruption body with guarantees of transparency in the appointment its management and staff.

28. Regarding the question on media ownership, the delegation stated that the Government presented its programme in 2015, foreseeing new regulations for the acquisition and merger of the media, aimed at eliminating the possibility of influence on the media environment by a single owner.

29. In response to questions, the delegation reported that the issue of the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance had been discussed within the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights. It was concluded that a review of the national legislation was needed to introduce the definition of forced disappearance and the creation of an effective mechanism for compensation of the victims and their families. In this respect, a working group had been established to work on draft amendments to the legislation. The delegation stated that Bulgaria would consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families when an agreement had been reached within the European Union on that issue.

30. Concerning the questions on the implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and on a possible ratification of the amendments to the crime of aggression, the delegation stated that the legislation was fully in compliance with the Statute in respect of the criminalization of the offences under its scope. Concrete steps for the ratification of the amendments had not yet been taken.

31. Regarding the question about the representation of civil society organizations in the work of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights, the delegation explained that there were no requirements for prior registration for the participation in the work of the

Mechanism and all human rights NGOs were encouraged to take part in the meetings based on their areas of interest.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

32. During the interactive dialogue, 75 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

33. Spain congratulated Bulgaria for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was concerned about attacks and hate speech against Roma. Spain stated that there was room for improvement on gender equality. It made recommendations.

34. The Sudan appreciated legislative and institutional developments since the first universal periodic review, particularly the adoption of the election codes, the amendments to the Judicial System Act 2010 and the updated strategy for continuing the reform of the judiciary. It made recommendations.

35. Sweden recalled that during the previous review Bulgaria had accepted a recommendation on detention conditions. It referred to complaints about poor conditions and treatment in migrant detention centres. Sweden stated that unaccompanied children were accommodated together with adults in reception centres. Sweden made recommendations.

36. Switzerland noted that Bulgaria had accepted a number of recommendations to combat domestic violence. However, domestic violence was not considered a criminal offence by law. Switzerland was concerned about the inadequate protection provided to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. It made recommendations.

37. Thailand encouraged Bulgaria to put in place appropriate legislative, administrative and other relevant measures to ensure full respect for children's rights, including in the area of juvenile justice and to step up efforts to promote access to social services for persons with disabilities. Thailand made recommendations.

38. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia welcomed the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights, which would enhance protection of the human rights of all citizens, irrespective of their ethnic origin. It made recommendations.

39. Timor-Leste welcomed the creation of a specialized criminal court to handle cases of corruption and organized crime. It was, however, concerned about the report of incidents of violence based on anti-foreigner and anti-refugee sentiment. Timor-Leste made recommendations.

40. Trinidad and Tobago commended the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights, designed to streamline the efforts of Bulgaria to undertake responsibilities in accordance with various human rights mechanisms. It also noted steps taken to adhere to additional international instruments. It made recommendations.

41. Turkey welcomed the efforts of Bulgaria to cooperate with the international human rights mechanism. It was concerned about discrimination against minorities and impunity for the human rights violations committed in the past. Turkey noted that the legislation restricted the pre-election campaign's language to Bulgarian. Turkey made recommendations.

42. Turkmenistan noted that Bulgaria provided a comprehensive update on efforts undertaken by the Government to improve the human rights situation on the ground. It made recommendations.

43. Ukraine commended Bulgaria for its efforts to implement recommendations from the first cycle of the universal periodic review and noted measures undertaken to promote the protection of minorities, the ratification of several international human rights instruments, and the adoption of a strategy for individuals granted international protection. It made recommendations.

44. The United Kingdom noted the commitment of Bulgaria to improve the situation of Roma and encouraged Bulgaria to take further action at the municipal level. It expressed the hope that the Government would foster understanding in society for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. It made recommendations.

45. The United States of America was concerned that corporate and political pressure was increasing media self-censorship and that corruption was undermining trust in the judiciary and other government institutions. It raised a number of concerns regarding the rights of minorities. It urged Bulgaria to promote and protect the human rights of migrants and asylum seekers. The United States made recommendations.

46. Uruguay noted the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and encouraged Bulgaria to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Uruguay made recommendations.

47. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that Bulgaria had become party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It highlighted efforts to improve the living conditions of Roma and noted the adoption of the National Roma Integration Strategy, and progress achieved in the protection of the rights of women. It made recommendations.

48. Albania commended the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination. It noted the human rights priority areas identified such as ethnic and religious tolerance, the integration of Roma and the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees. Albania made recommendations.

49. Algeria appreciated the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights and encouraged Bulgaria to continue its efforts to eliminate discriminatory practices against women and to strengthen programmes to fight child labour and the phenomenon of street children. Algeria made recommendations.

50. Angola commended the ongoing legal and administrative measures to strengthen the efficiency of the judiciary. It underlined the development programme 2020 and the national strategy for poverty reduction and the promotion of social inclusion 2020. Angola made recommendations.

51. Argentina noted with appreciation the practice of establishing working groups on the follow-up to recommendations. It noted concerns by treaty bodies regarding cases of discrimination and xenophobia against asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and ethnic and religious minorities. It made recommendations.

52. Armenia welcomed steps taken to promote the rights of national minorities and commended the State policy to ensure a favourable environment for minorities to preserve their cultural heritage and identity. It noted with appreciation measures to combat racism, hate speech, hate crimes and human trafficking. Armenia made recommendations.

53. Australia stated that the expansion of the Commission of Protection against Discrimination and the Ombudsman would strengthen the human rights framework. It

welcomed efforts to reform the judiciary and fight corruption. Australia noted the resurgence of hate crimes. It made recommendations.

54. Austria noted some initiatives taken regarding the juvenile justice system but regretted delays in reforming the system. It shared concerns about the high prevalence of domestic violence, discrimination against Roma and the situation of unaccompanied minor children. It made recommendations.

55. Azerbaijan welcomed the submission by Bulgaria of the universal periodic review midterm report, which had been prepared with the participation of various State institutions and NGOs. It noted the accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. It made a recommendation.

56. Belgium commended Bulgaria for its efforts to implement recommendations of the first universal periodic review regarding discrimination, racism, extremism and xenophobia. Belgium considered, however, that there was still room for improvement in addressing certain human rights concerns. It made recommendations.

57. Benin welcomed the adoption of the new electoral code and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It called on the international community to assist Bulgaria in economic and social development and in the promotion of human rights. Benin made recommendations.

58. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the judicial reforms, the advancement in combating organized crime, and the adoption and implementation of laws and policies on gender equality, the rights of people with disabilities and national minorities. It requested information on measures to strengthen the prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking in women and children.

59. Brazil commended the accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and encouraged lifting of reservations to the 1954 Convention. It expressed concern about discriminatory practices against women and domestic violence. It stressed the need to ensure respect of the principle of non-refoulement. It made recommendations.

60. Burkina Faso encouraged Bulgaria to continue implementing the national strategy on gender equality. It urged the Government to strengthen its activities in the area of human rights education. Burkina Faso made recommendations.

61. Canada commended Bulgaria for the creation of a national system for early alerts for abducted and missing children. It also encouraged Bulgaria to pursue and strengthen the efforts undertaken to reduce corruption in all sectors. Canada made recommendations.

62. Chile highlighted institutional changes carried out to improve the human rights situation. It expressed concern about violence against children and adults with intellectual disabilities, insufficient progress on gender equality and discrimination against Roma. It made recommendations.

63. China commended the efforts made to reform the judiciary, provide assistance to vulnerable groups, fight against organized crime, combat racial discrimination and crimes against minors, and promote gender equality. China made recommendations.

64. Costa Rica noted the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and encouraged Bulgaria to take measures to harmonize national legislation and practice with that instrument. It also noted initiatives for human rights education. It encouraged Bulgaria to continue working on judicial reform. It made recommendations.

65. Côte d'Ivoire noted with appreciation the national reforms undertaken by Bulgaria, including the adoption of international human rights instruments. It made recommendations.

66. Cyprus commended Bulgaria for the measures adopted since the last universal periodic review cycle, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the current initiatives to combat trafficking in human beings and eliminate discrimination. Cyprus made a recommendation.

67. The delegation of Bulgaria provided responses to a number of questions and statements made during the interactive dialogue. It reported on the projects that were funded from the State budget and implemented by NGOs to prevent domestic violence and to protect the victims. All activities had been regularly included in annual national programmes for prevention of and protection against domestic violence and necessary budgets had been allocated. Additionally, legal amendments had been drafted to improve the legal framework relating to domestic violence by taking into consideration the expertise of NGOs and the comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

68. In response to questions on some cases of racism and intolerance, the delegation stated that allegations of manifestation of racism and intolerance had been examined by relevant authorities and, where necessary, steps had been taken to prosecute and punish such acts. The delegation highlighted that Bulgaria did not have a strong record of such acts or manifestations. However, the authorities would continue being vigilant.

69. The delegation reported on several measures taken to ensure the rights of Roma to health care and employment and their social inclusion. The health and labour mediators, selected from the Roma community, served as a bridge between the public sector and that community. The number of health mediators had increased. Preventive medical check-ups were carried out in the Roma settlements and Roma children were immunized. A system of monitoring the Roma integration strategies had been set up and included a unified platform for collection of data at municipal, regional and national levels. Efforts had been made to support the employment of Roma.

70. The delegation stated that the principle of equality and non-discrimination was enshrined in the Constitution and legislation. The authorities continued their consistent policies aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination, including against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. The Protection against Discrimination Act prohibited any direct or indirect discrimination based on a number of grounds, including gender and sexual orientation.

71. The right of children with disabilities to equal access to education was guaranteed by law. The legal framework ensured full integration of children with disabilities in the general education system.

72. In a response to a statement on alleged cases of discrimination, the delegation stated that there was no discriminatory treatment in connection with the construction of places of worship of religious denominations. Places of worship were constructed according to standard procedures and were not subject to any special requirements. Attacks against religious minorities were rather occasional and the perpetrators faced charges for hooliganism on the grounds of hatred.

73. The legislation on refugees and migrants had been harmonized with European Union standards and was in line with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Optional Protocol thereto. Media campaigns had been carried out to create a favourable environment, supportive of the integration of refugees. The Government provided legal and

social assistance, including free legal consultations, education, training, and interpretation services for foreigners seeking international protection. The living conditions of asylum seekers had improved.

74. The delegation reported on a number of measures that had been taken to combat human trafficking and to provide assistance to victims. The capacity of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings had been strengthened. Shelters for victims of human trafficking and specialized centres for protection and support of victims had been built. Referral mechanisms for victims had been developed. A national council for assistance and compensation for victims had been established. Various public campaigns had been carried out as a preventive measure. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation with relevant agencies and countries of destination had been achieved.

75. Regarding the questions on self-identification of ethnic groups, the delegation stated that the policy of Bulgaria on that issue was consistent with its obligations under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe. The right of minorities to exercise their culture was guaranteed by the Constitution and was ensured in practice for all ethnic groups without any obstacle. Furthermore, there were no restrictions to the freedom of association, and cultural identity had been exercised and developed without any impediment.

76. In answering the question on restitution of confiscated properties of a religious community by the communist regime, the delegation stated that the restitution of confiscated properties was made based on court decisions without any discrimination.

77. The delegation responded to a question on the use of minority languages during the pre-election campaigns. While the Constitution guaranteed the use of the mother tongue in many spheres of life, Bulgarian as a State language should, however, be used in pre-election campaigns. The delegation provided statistics on the number of schools where the Turkish language was taught to students belonging to the Turkish minority.

78. The Czech Republic noted with appreciation the response of the delegation to some of the advance questions. It made recommendations.

79. Denmark highlighted the widespread discrimination and intolerance against minorities, especially Roma. While noting the increasing flow of migrants and refugees, it underlined the challenge of ensuring that vulnerable people were treated fully in accordance with international standards. Denmark made recommendations.

80. Egypt welcomed efforts undertaken in human rights education, training for law enforcement officials and combating trafficking. It encouraged the Government to continue efforts to combat racism, including hate speech and incitement to hatred, through the media. It made recommendations.

81. El Salvador congratulated Bulgaria for the participative mechanism adopted for the preparation of its report as well as for the creation of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights and the importance given to the Ombudsman. It made recommendations.

82. Estonia encouraged Bulgaria to intensify its efforts in reforming the judiciary and combating corruption. It urged Bulgaria to criminalize domestic violence and marital rape specifically and to introduce the possibility of ex-officio prosecution for both offences. Estonia made recommendations.

83. Finland indicated that the positive effect of education on children's future should be communicated more efficiently to Roma parents. Finland welcomed the efforts to combat hate crimes and raise public awareness in order to enhance tolerance in the society. It made recommendations.

84. France commended the recent amendments to the Criminal Code limiting the criminal responsibility of minors and the creation of "blue rooms" allowing children to be heard by the judiciary. France requested more information about improvement in the care of minors. It made recommendations.

85. Georgia commended Bulgaria for the ratification of several human rights instruments and for efforts to reform the judiciary, strengthen the Ombudsman and combat corruption. It welcomed the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights and the decreasing number of children in specialized institutions. Georgia made recommendations.

86. Germany remained concerned about persisting discrepancies between the law on paper and the reality and about issues regarding the integration of refugees. Prevention and investigation of hate crimes by the authorities was inadequate. Germany made recommendations.

87. Ghana acknowledged the ratification of several international human rights instruments. It made recommendations.

88. Greece commended the practice of establishing working groups on the follow-up process of universal periodic review recommendations. It noted progress in achieving gender equality, the amendments adopted to strengthen the Council on Gender Equality and the awareness-raising initiatives on domestic violence. It made recommendations.

89. Hungary commended a number of programmes, strategies and action plans to improve the situation of Roma. It noted with satisfaction that Bulgaria had conducted free and fair elections in the previous October based on the new electoral law. Hungary made recommendations.

90. Indonesia noted the adoption of a decision for one-time payment of compensation to all individual complaints for which damages had been recommended by the United Nations treaty bodies and asked for further information on that matter. Indonesia made recommendations.

91. Iraq commended the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights, the National Integration Strategy for Individuals Granted International Protection, ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, efforts made to strengthen the capacity of the Ombudsman and programmes aiming at reducing poverty. Iraq urged Bulgaria to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

92. Ireland encouraged Bulgaria to continue progress in the area of gender equality. It urged Bulgaria to amend its legislation to criminalize domestic violence and marital rape. Ireland shared the concern expressed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that defamation remained a criminal offence. It made recommendations.

93. Israel was concerned by the reports on hate speech and attacks to places of worship and worshippers. It also noted that the Human Rights Committee had mentioned the low number of cases of domestic and gender-based violence brought to justice. Israel made recommendations.

94. Italy welcomed the priority assigned by Bulgaria to human rights education and to the fight against all forms of discrimination. Italy made recommendations.

95. Japan welcomed the ratification of the main international human rights instruments. Noting reports of poor conditions of detention, it called on Bulgaria to ensure the protection of human rights in its criminal justice procedures, particularly to improve the treatment of inmates. Japan made recommendations.

96. Kuwait appreciated the efforts of Bulgaria in implementing those recommendations that it had accepted during the first universal periodic review, which confirmed its commitment towards human rights. Kuwait made recommendations.

97. Libya welcomed the progress that Bulgaria had achieved since the first universal periodic review and commended it for its efforts to promote, respect and protect human rights. Libya encouraged Bulgaria to continue to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of the functioning of legislative and executive institutions.

98. Malaysia noted with appreciation the progress made in implementation of those recommendations that had been accepted relating to children's rights, all forms of violence and national human rights institutions. Malaysia noted the measures taken by Bulgaria to combat xenophobia, hate speech and human trafficking. It made recommendations.

99. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It noted the reform of the judiciary and the willingness to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, considering that such efforts should be intensified. It made recommendations.

100. Montenegro encouraged Bulgaria to improve further the position of socially vulnerable children, particularly Roma children, and to continue developing national policies for tackling the issue of mixed migrations and asylum flows. It asked about the results achieved by the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights.

101. Morocco encouraged Bulgaria to continue working towards achieving the objectives of the "Bulgaria 2020" programme and the 2020 national strategy. It welcomed the measures taken in the area of human rights education and the ones aimed at fighting human trafficking. Morocco made recommendations.

102. Namibia noted with appreciation the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights and the adoption of the National Integration Strategy for Individuals Granted International Protection. It made recommendations.

103. The Netherlands noted with appreciation that the Protection from Discrimination Act that had been recently amended included protection from discrimination in cases of gender reassignment. It welcomed the efforts of Bulgaria to fight discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. The Netherlands made recommendations.

104. The Niger noted the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights and the adoption of the legal amendments on the judicial system with a view to modernizing and ensuring the independence of the judiciary. It made a recommendation.

105. Nigeria commended Bulgaria for the judicial reform and for the 2020 national development programme and the 2020 national strategy for reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion with a view to reducing the number of people living in poverty. Nigeria made recommendations.

106. Norway noted ratification of a number of treaties and efforts to improve legislation and adopt strategies in the area of human rights. It commended Bulgaria for the reduction in school dropouts among Roma children. Norway made recommendations.

107. Pakistan appreciated the engagement of Bulgaria and its cooperation with the special procedures and the treaty bodies and commended the steps taken to enhance the capacity of the Ombudsman and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination. Pakistan made recommendations.

108. The Philippines welcomed actions taken to promote human rights, including those addressing domestic violence, human trafficking and the participation of women in the public and private sectors. It made recommendations.

109. Poland commended efforts to improve the social and economic situation of the Roma community, in particular with the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy (2012–2020). It made recommendations.

110. Portugal noted with satisfaction the commitment of Bulgaria to strengthen human rights protection, particularly the creation of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights and the Integrated Strategy for Prevention and Countering of Corruption. It made recommendations.

111. The Republic of Moldova noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights. It inquired about data on territorial coverage and funding sources of shelters and centres for victims of human trafficking. It made recommendations.

112. Romania took note of the progress achieved since the previous universal periodic review, including the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the creation of a national human rights institution and international cooperation on combating human trafficking. Romania made recommendations.

113. The Russian Federation expressed concern about the increase in the number of ultranationalist groups and parties and about continuing discrimination against Roma, including in the areas of education, housing and employment. It made recommendations.

114. Rwanda commended Bulgaria for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, strengthening of the capacity of the Ombudsman and for ensuring equal opportunities for women and men. Rwanda made recommendations.

115. Serbia encouraged Bulgaria to take legislative measures to promote a comprehensive gender equality policy and to honour its commitments towards national minorities. It asked Bulgaria to present activities and plans for further strengthening the identity of different ethnic groups. Serbia made recommendations.

116. Sierra Leone noted with appreciation the reform of the judiciary and of the legislation and anti-trafficking measures. It encouraged Bulgaria to implement effectively policies on violence against ethnic and religious minorities and urged it to combat gender stereotypes and to promote gender equality. Sierra Leone made recommendations.

117. Slovakia acknowledged efforts to improve coordination among public authorities and welcomed initiatives in the field of the rights of the child. It encouraged Bulgaria to continue to implement the National Roma Integration Strategy. It made recommendations.

118. Slovenia welcomed the accession to several international human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. It also welcomed the appointment of the Ombudsman as a national preventative mechanism and urged Bulgaria to continue such efforts. It made recommendations.

119. The delegation of Bulgaria reiterated the commitment of the Government to continue the judicial reforms and strengthen the juvenile justice system in line with international standards. The delegation reported on ongoing measures to strengthen legislation on juvenile justice.

120. The delegation mentioned the Government's efforts to improve the legislation relating to gender equality, combating domestic violence and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. Some progress in addressing prison overcrowding had been documented and additional measures were under way to address further prison overcrowding.

121. In conclusion, the delegation gave thanks for the open dialogue during the review and expressed its belief that the universal periodic review provided a good opportunity for each country to assess the human rights situation as well as share good practices.

122. The delegation expressed the commitment of the Government to continue enhancing the national capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights. Bulgaria remained committed to continuing its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and the follow-up to the review. The delegation made assurances that the questions raised and the recommendations put forward during the review would be thoroughly examined and the position of the Government on all recommendations would be provided before the thirtieth session of the Human Rights Council, in September 2015.

II. Conclusions and recommendations**

123. **The following recommendations will be examined by Bulgaria, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than at the thirtieth session of the Human Rights Council, in September 2015:**

123.1 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina) (Portugal) (Ghana);**

123.2 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (France);**

123.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

123.4 **Take all necessary legal measures for ratifying the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Albania);**

123.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Kuwait);**

123.6 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Timor-Leste) (Burkina Faso) (Rwanda);**

123.7 **Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

123.8 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria) (Ghana) (Philippines) (Sierra Leone);**

123.9 **Ratify the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**

123.10 **Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Timor-Leste);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

123.11 **Take steps to ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

123.12 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia) (Ireland);**

123.13 **Sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Italy);**

123.14 **Continue to bring about the major legislative amendments relating to human rights and the rule of law, in conformity with international principles and standards (Kuwait);**

123.15 **Take steps to establish an A status national human rights institution (Australia);**

123.16 **Continue developing its national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Egypt);**

123.17 **Continue the effort to strengthen the Commission for Protection against Discrimination and the Ombudsman as national human rights institutions in ensuring that those institutions are in line with the Paris Principles, as previously recommended (Indonesia);**

123.18 **Ensure effective functioning of the Ombudsman and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Ukraine);**

123.19 **Afford adequate resources to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination in order for this important institution to fulfil its mandate effectively (Namibia);**

123.20 **Provide all necessary resources to further strengthen the Ombudsman and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination and bring them in line with the Paris Principles (Pakistan);**

123.21 **Strengthen human and financial resources available to the directorate of the Ombudsman responsible for the new role of a national preventive mechanism according to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture so that they match the number of facilities overseen (Czech Republic);**

123.22 **Ensure the allocation of adequate resources to national human rights protection bodies, such as the Ombudsman (Philippines);**

123.23 **Establish a children's ombudsman to safeguard, protect and promote the rights of children and young people, as previously recommended (Norway);**

123.24 **Continue spreading best practices in the field of enhancement of the already existing solid institutional framework (Greece);**

123.25 **Continue further improvement of the protection and promotion of human rights in the country (Azerbaijan);**

123.26 **Ensure the effective implementation of the relevant action plans, including the National Roma Integration Strategy (Hungary);**

123.27 **Further increase the measures implemented under the National Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality (2009–2015) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

123.28 **Continue efforts aimed at promoting the rights of children, women, migrants and national minorities (Ukraine);**

123.29 **Strengthen the measures aimed at protecting vulnerable populations and so guarantee their full access to public services (Côte d'Ivoire);**

123.30 **Continue increasing assistance for vulnerable persons (Angola);**

123.31 **Continue strengthening the advanced programmes carried out for the promotion of employment, food and social assistance, combating poverty and social inequality, and in favour of national minorities — especially Roma — and other vulnerable sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

123.32 **Within the framework of the National Roma Integration Strategy developed in 2011, intensify its efforts for implementation of their integration policy, especially in the areas of health and education (Cyprus);**

123.33 **Adopt a national action plan on business and human rights, to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and to subscribe to the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (Netherlands);**

123.34 **Consider developing human rights indicators as an instrument that would allow the assessment of national human rights policies (Portugal);**

123.35 **Ensure effective implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy (2012–2020), including by identifying lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of the first phase (Italy);**

123.36 **Continue its efforts in carrying out various programmes for promoting gender equality, combating negative stereotypes about women and their social role, including for the implementation of the "Female leaders in security and defence" project (Albania);**

123.37 **Strengthen its efforts on gender equality, including in combating negative stereotypes about women on their social roles and in ensuring wider employment opportunities for women (Malaysia);**

123.38 **Continue taking measures to eradicate generalized discriminatory practices against women, including stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society (Costa Rica);**

123.39 **Adopt and implement specific legislation on gender equality (Slovenia);**

123.40 **Adopt the draft gender equality act (Portugal);**

123.41 **Adopt law on gender equality (Algeria);**

123.42 **Finalize the internal procedures in order to adopt a specific legislation on gender equality (Georgia);**

123.43 **Prioritize the finalization and subsequent adoption of a law on gender equality, giving special attention to its adequate implementation and dissemination among State entities and the general population (Mexico);**

123.44 **Fast-track the enactment of the gender equality act (Ghana);**

123.45 **Accelerate the process of adoption of the gender equality act (Morocco);**

123.46 **Advance in the adoption of a law prohibiting discrimination against women and establish a legal framework that favours political and economic participation of women on equal terms (Chile);**

123.47 **Strengthen the measures taken on the fight against discrimination against women (Morocco);**

123.48 **Establish measures to further reduce gender inequality in all areas and pay special attention to protection of women from minorities, older women and women with disabilities (China);**

123.49 **Adopt legislative measures to criminalize discrimination against women, particularly of minority groups, disabled women and older women (Ghana);**

123.50 **Continue developing policies for true gender equality and the fight against domestic violence (Spain);**

123.51 **Promote legislative measures, as well as all other types of measures, to promote gender equality and the prevention of violence against women and girls (El Salvador);**

123.52 **Adopt the draft gender equality act and criminalize domestic violence and marital rape (Brazil);**

123.53 **Take further positive actions in the areas of promoting equal opportunities between men and women and domestic violence (Greece);**

123.54 **Create a system of collection of statistical data on cases of gender-based violence, accompanied by a study analysing the causes why many such cases are not denounced (Spain);**

123.55 **Take steps to improve the equality of access to various forms of education and employment for all women (Trinidad and Tobago);**

123.56 **Take targeted and efficient measures to address the discrimination and exclusion of minorities that include awareness-raising of the majority population of the need to show respect and understanding towards minorities in accordance with the fundamental principle that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" (Denmark);**

123.57 **Take the necessary measures to fight marginalization of Romani individuals by addressing intolerance and discrimination, and improve their opportunities for education and employment (United States of America);**

123.58 **Ensure equality of access to education, housing and employment especially of the Roma people (Ghana);**

123.59 **Take practical measures for adopting a non-discriminatory approach towards the Roma minority (Russian Federation);**

123.60 **Continue legislative reforms to better fight discrimination against the Roma population and other minorities, racist violence, hate crimes and hate speech (Niger);**

123.61 **Enhance its efforts to prevent incitement to ethnic and religious hatred (Japan);**

123.62 **Take concrete steps to put in place adequate legal protections against incitement of hatred, including hatred motivated by xenophobia and homophobia, in line with the international and domestic obligations of Bulgaria (Australia);**

123.63 **Strengthen the implementation of laws prohibiting discrimination and incitement to hatred in order to protect the rights of minorities such as Roma (China);**

123.64 **Allocate resources to educational programmes in order to change views and neutralize racist ideas that were spread by extremist groups (Russian Federation);**

123.65 **Strengthen the fight against racism, xenophobia and hate speech (Angola);**

123.66 **Take more robust measures to prevent and punish religious hatred, discrimination, racism, extremism and xenophobia and human rights violations committed against minorities (Namibia);**

123.67 **Intensify its efforts to protect individuals from racism, xenophobia and hate crimes by encouraging reporting and ensuring proper recording of hate crimes as well as ensuring that bias movements are fully taken into account in the investigation, prosecution and sentencing of offences. All victims of hate crimes must have access to justice (Finland);**

123.68 **Strengthen the measures aimed at fighting discriminatory acts and hate speech against certain minority groups by focusing on prevention and follow-up to these acts (Côte d'Ivoire);**

123.69 **Give a strong response to hate speech, including in offline and online media, as well as systematically denounce expression of intolerance by opinion leaders in the country (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

123.70 **Strengthen the measures to fight hate speech, targeting of persons on the ground of their ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation, particularly Roma, Muslim and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, as well as asylum seekers and migrants (France);**

123.71 **Take measures to fight all types of inflammatory speech or incitement to hatred against ethnic and religious minorities and ensure that perpetrators of such crimes are prosecuted and receive adequate convictions and penalties (Mexico);**

123.72 **Strengthen data collection on racist and xenophobic violence in order to identify the sources of this kind of discrimination, which turn into the so-called hate crimes (Uruguay);**

123.73 **Condemn crimes and hate speech, ensure that all racist offences are effectively detected and are subject to investigation and prosecution, and fight against racism and intolerance manifestations in the media (Canada);**

123.74 **Prosecute the instigators of hate crime and provide remedies for victims of hate speech (Sierra Leone);**

123.75 **Double its efforts in combating intolerance and hate speech, including through ensuring proper investigation and prosecution in all cases of attacks and incidents of intolerance against minorities (Malaysia);**

123.76 **Take measures to address the increase in racist and xenophobic violence, including the provision of courses and training on discrimination for law enforcement personnel, judicial authorities and health professionals (Uruguay);**

123.77 **Strengthen measures to ensure the investigation and punishment of hate speech against minority groups, including those made by members of some political parties and groups (Argentina);**

123.78 **Ensure the prevention and full investigation of hate crimes and violent attacks targeting ethnic and religious minorities, including migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (Germany);**

123.79 **Ensure that all offences based on discrimination are effectively identified, investigated and prosecuted (Israel);**

123.80 **Take the commitment to stop State funding of organizations or political parties that advocate racism (Russian Federation);**

123.81 **Include racist motivation of crimes as an aggravating circumstance in the Criminal Code and make more effective the investigation and prosecution of hate speech and violence, including against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (Czech Republic);**

123.82 **Modify its legislation to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the list of offences (Israel);**

123.83 **Take steps to criminalize hate crimes, including discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, both in law and speech (Uruguay);**

123.84 **Include the issue of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in the human rights awareness courses (Uruguay);**

123.85 **Adopt measures to end discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, actual or perceived, in compliance with its human rights obligations (Switzerland);**

123.86 **Take all necessary measures to ensure that the Criminal Code prohibits all crimes against persons or against property on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity (Belgium);**

123.87 **Adopt a definition of torture that includes all elements present in the Convention against Torture (Portugal);**

123.88 **Take further measures to combat ill-treatment of prisoners and detainees by the police, including improved police training, intensified courses on practical aspects of police ethics and specialized courses on hate crime investigation (Norway);**

123.89 **Ensure that detainees in the custody of the General Directorate of the Border Police and the Ministry of the Interior are treated in a humane and dignified manner and that their detention fully complies with the international obligations of Bulgaria governing the administrative detention of migrants (Sweden);**

123.90 **Strengthen its efforts to prevent domestic violence, particularly violence against women (Timor-Leste);**

123.91 **Take efficient measures to ensure that domestic violence is prosecuted as a breach of the law and that perpetrators are brought to justice (Switzerland);**

123.92 **Increase its efforts to prevent domestic violence, particularly against women, and ensure that sufficient shelters are available to women victims of domestic violence and their children (Austria);**

123.93 **Modify the Law on the Protection against Domestic Violence and promote the prosecution for these crimes (Israel);**

123.94 **Consider amending the law so that it provides further efforts of redress for victims of domestic violence, in addition to increased punishment for repeated violations of violence against women (Serbia);**

123.95 **Repeal article 158 of its Criminal Code and ensure that all acts of sexual violence against women and girls are properly investigated and perpetrators are punished (Ghana);**

123.96 **Improve prosecution for and prevention of domestic violence and ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to shelters and other support services (Czech Republic);**

123.97 **Take concrete measures to prevent cases of violence against women, including the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of women and girls (Canada);**

123.98 **Develop policies to effectively prevent violence against women, in particular domestic violence and also provide shelters and assistance to victims (Sierra Leone);**

123.99 **Eliminate all forms of child marriage and raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 (Sierra Leone);**

123.100 **Promote non-violent methods of child-rearing and education and ensure that the law prohibiting corporal punishment is enforced (Poland);**

123.101 **Continue strengthening the capacity of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Sudan);**

123.102 **Continue its efforts in combating trafficking in persons (Armenia);**

123.103 **Continue the actions taken to combat human trafficking, particularly for forced prostitution, begging and underpaid work (France);**

123.104 **Continue its efforts in combating trafficking in persons including strengthening the preventive measures on sexual exploitation of women and children (Malaysia);**

123.105 **Strengthen the normative framework for coordinated government actions against trafficking and care for the trafficked victims, including developing a procedural framework for the return and reintegration of victims of trafficking in persons (Philippines);**

123.106 **Continue the fight against trafficking of human beings and international cooperation in this respect (Romania);**

123.107 **Strengthen existing mechanisms as well as create new legal policies that prevent and combat human trafficking (Serbia);**

123.108 **Expand anti-trafficking measures from the large towns to the rural neighbourhoods and highly populated Roma communities so as to protect the most vulnerable groups of society (Serbia);**

123.109 **Continue the strengthening of the judicial power (Romania);**

123.110 **Continue the reform of the judiciary to ensure independence and impartiality of the tribunals (Chile);**

123.111 **Continue its efforts and initiatives to reform the judicial system (Benin);**

123.112 **Accelerate the judicial reform and enhance the fight against corruption in order to improve human rights standards in the country (Slovenia);**

123.113 **Continue reforms in the system of the law enforcement agencies and the judicial system (Turkmenistan);**

123.114 **Continue the reform process in particular in the field of justice, administration, e-governance and social issues (Hungary);**

123.115 **Review all work under the European Union twinning programme in the prison system and agree to its next steps in order to urgently address: occurrences of ill-treatment (both by police and in prisons), prisoner violence, prison overcrowding, detention facility conditions as well as prison health care and staffing levels (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

123.116 **Further address the protection of victims' human rights as well as punishment for those responsible, with respect to the high rates of domestic violence (Japan);**

123.117 **Put in place new mechanisms that allow victims of hate crimes to be informed quickly and accurately of the changes in their cases, to be heard in the context of legal proceedings and to receive appropriate legal and psychological assistance (Switzerland);**

123.118 **Consider the implementation of the reform of the juvenile justice system as a matter of priority (Austria);**

123.119 **Take necessary measures for establishing a specialized juvenile justice system and continue efforts for the reintegration of former child offenders in the society, in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Republic of Moldova);**

123.120 **Continue the effort in the field of juvenile justice, including by considering incorporating restorative justice principles in the juvenile justice system (Indonesia);**

123.121 **Continue to address legal and procedural limitations which obstruct the effective prosecution of crime and corruption cases (Australia);**

123.122 **Continue its efforts and initiatives to fight against corruption (Benin);**

123.123 **Continue the fight against corruption and organized crime and ensure that perpetrators of these crimes do not remain unpunished (France);**

123.124 **Continue its efforts and initiatives against organized crime and conflict of interest (Benin);**

123.125 **Provide effective protection for the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society, in accordance with its respective obligations under international human rights law (Egypt);**

123.126 **Develop an effective State family policy based on the prevention of separation of children from parents and early intervention measures, supported by an action plan for implementation and specifically designated funding (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

123.127 **Take measures to improve the situation of children who are still living in institutions (Trinidad and Tobago);**

123.128 **Continue its efforts to further improve the situation of children in specialized institutions (Georgia);**

123.129 **Take necessary precautions to protect mosques and other religious sites against the rising incidents of racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia (Turkey);**

123.130 **Ensure freedom of expression and media freedom by guaranteeing that journalists and media workers are able to practise their professions in a free and safe environment and that all attacks on journalists and media workers are investigated and by criminalizing defamation (Estonia);**

123.131 **Work to decriminalize defamation and prevent legal retaliation against journalists for exercising their right to freedom of expression, and increase transparency of media ownership (United States of America);**

123.132 **Decriminalize defamation and place it under the civil code in accordance with international human rights standards (Ireland);**

123.133 **Guarantee a safe and independent working environment for journalists and promote transparency and diversity in the media ownership (Norway);**

123.134 **Counter harassment, threats and wiretapping of investigating journalists, bloggers and NGO representatives (Norway);**

123.135 **Ensure that the principle of freedom of association, as provided for in article 11 of the European Convention of Human Rights, is respected without any discrimination and applied in accordance with the relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

123.136 **Take measures to enable the adequate representation of all components of society in all organs of government, particularly women and ethnic minorities (Costa Rica);**

123.137 **Continue increasing quality of children's education, especially in rural areas (Turkmenistan);**

123.138 **Strive to achieve the right to education of all boys and girls with strict respect to the principle of non-discrimination and take concrete measures to fight the high dropout rates in schools and preschools among minority and vulnerable groups (Mexico);**

123.139 **Make steps towards more sustainable reduction of school dropouts (Norway);**

123.140 **Elaborate comprehensive measures in order to guarantee the right to education for children of migrants and of national minorities (Russian Federation);**

123.141 **Ensure that no impediments are created to the preservation, expression, and development of cultural identity by all citizens (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

123.142 **Ramp up efforts to address the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, particularly children (Trinidad and Tobago);**

123.143 **Consider revising its legislation to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, especially the law relating to legal capacity and accommodation of persons with mental disabilities in institutions (Thailand);**

123.144 **Implement the policy for employment of persons with disabilities and the National Roma Integration Strategy 2011–2020 (Sudan);**[7]

123.145 **Develop a package of political measures permitting the independent living of persons with disabilities and prepare a protocol for action to ensure the independent living of persons who do not have family support (Spain);**

123.146 **Adopt, as soon as possible, public norms and policies designed to punish physical and psychological abuse against persons with disabilities and take concrete measures to improve treatment and care conditions, including social protection measures (Chile);**

123.147 **Promote the strengthening of the legal framework for the protection of children and adolescents with disabilities (El Salvador);**

123.148 **Continue its efforts to promote an inclusive education for children with disabilities in the general school system (Israel);**

123.149 **Continue to make efforts to provide care to children with disabilities outside the institutional frameworks (Kuwait);**

123.150 **Uphold the standards on the protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities (Romania);**

123.151 **Continue the initiatives directed towards the promotion and protection of the rights of the national minorities (Armenia);**

123.152 **Ensure that no disadvantage shall result for citizens from the exercise of their right to identify themselves as belonging to any ethnic minority group (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

123.153 **Continue its effort in improving the situation of Roma and Bulgarian citizens of other ethnic groups, especially through effective implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy with adequate allocation of financial and human resources (Thailand);**

123.154 **Pursue and strengthen its efforts to improve the situation of minorities, in particular of Roma, and allocate sufficient resources for an effective implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy (Canada);**

123.155 **Take further steps to assure meaningful implementation and adequate funding of efforts to promote Roma integration, especially in the field of education (Austria);**

123.156 **Continue strengthening policies to integrate the Roma population and ensure they have access to basic health and social services, with particular emphasis on the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as education, housing and employment (Spain);**

[7] The recommendation as read out during the interactive dialogue: Implement the strategy for employment of persons with disabilities 2011 to 2020 and the National Roma Integration Strategy (Sudan).

123.157 **Implement the National Roma Integration Strategy with special focus on improving Roma employment in rural areas, ensuring health insurance coverage, improving housing conditions and combating hate speech against Roma (Netherlands);**

123.158 **Continue developing inclusive policies to enable the Roma population to enjoy the same rights and opportunities as other persons, with due regard to their participation in its design and implementation (Chile);**

123.159 **Promote the full access of Roma children to education at all levels by introducing a concrete action plan with the budgetary means to achieve this goal. Efforts to decrease the rate of dropouts of Roma children should be intensified further (Finland);**

123.160 **Address issues of poverty, employment, education and housing of Roma people through effective implementation of integration strategy (Pakistan);**

123.161 **Continue and intensify efforts in combating poverty experienced by Roma and other disadvantaged members of the population (Poland);**

123.162 **Transparently prosecute the individuals who committed crimes against all minorities under the communist regime, especially on the protracted legal case of Belene concentration camp (Turkey);**

123.163 **Adopt legislation for the removal from the civil registry of the Bulgarian-Slavic names forcibly given to Turkish and Muslim minorities under the communist regime (Turkey);**

123.164 **Adopt decisions such as the executive decision on the Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral on the restitution of property confiscated from the Muslim denomination and all others, so as to demonstrate the non-discriminatory character of the executive (Turkey);**

123.165 **Change its legislation to ensure the exercise of the political rights in the mother tongue as prescribed in the OSCE report of 7 January 2015 (Turkey);**

123.166 **Continue strengthening action aimed at protecting the human rights of the migrant population (El Salvador);**

123.167 **Guarantee the right to education by enrolling all migrant children into mainstream Bulgarian schools and provide necessary language support classes to facilitate their integration (Sweden);**

123.168 **Promote a positive image of and tolerance for asylum seekers and refugees (Rwanda);**

123.169 **Amend its legislation on asylum seekers and adopt a national programme for the integration of refugees (Nigeria);**

123.170 **Fully implement the national integration strategy adopted earlier in the year (Germany);**

123.171 **Adopt the draft law on asylum and refugees, which is to ensure, inter alia, unhindered access to primary education for refugee children (Germany);**

123.172 **Consider granting access to primary education to the children of refugees in the country (Nigeria);**

123.173 **Continue the efforts to host migrants and asylum seekers in order to ensure their integration (France);**

123.174 **Review and reform its legislation allowing for the detention of asylum seekers on the basis of illegal entry, and ensure that the detention of asylum seekers, particularly of children, be applied only in exceptional circumstances after due diligence (Brazil);**

123.175 **Provide all unaccompanied children with appropriate legal guardians, as required by Bulgarian law, to ensure their basic needs are met and their best interests protected (Austria);**

123.176 **Provide all unaccompanied children with appropriate legal guardians, as required by Bulgarian law and ensure their basic needs are met (Hungary);**

123.177 **Take immediate action to ensure that legal guardians are appointed for unaccompanied minors and that proper accommodation and education are provided (Denmark);**

123.178 **Designate legal guardians for all unaccompanied children as required by Bulgarian law, to ensure that their basic needs are met as children and that their interests are protected (Belgium);**

123.179 **Not detain children with unrelated adults (Sweden);**

123.180 **Not detain children with adults unrelated to them (Belgium);**

123.181 **Take into account as appropriate the rights and needs of persons requiring international protection when resolving the issue on granting them asylum in Bulgaria (Russian Federation);**

123.182 **Effectively implement the National Integration Strategy for Individuals Granted International Protection in Bulgaria (2014–2020) with particular focus on the needs of children (Slovakia).**

124. **All conclusions and recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting States and the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

[*English only*]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Bulgaria was headed by Ms. Katia Todorova, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- Ambassador Ivan Piperkov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria of the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Verginiya Micheva-Ruseva, Deputy Minister of Justice;
- Mr. Andrey Tehov, General Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Dimitar Philipov, Director, Human Rights Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Maria Spassova, Chief of Department, Human Rights Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Milena Ivanova, Counsellor, Human Rights Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Rositsa Ivanova, Secretary, the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues;
- Ms. Petya Dimitrova, State Expert, State Agency for Child Protection;
- Ms. Boyka Cherneva, Rector of the Academy of the Ministry of Interior;
- Ms. Marieta Tosheva, Chief Expert, Ministry of Justice;
- Ms. Daniela Masheva, Prosecutor, Supreme Cassation Office;
- Mr. Aleksey Andreev, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria in Geneva;
- Ms. Albena Vodenitcharova, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria in Geneva;
- Ms. Boyana Trifonova, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria in Geneva;
- Mr. Dimitar Ganev, Expert, Council for Electronic Media;
- Mr. Peter Atanassov, Chief of Department, State Agency for Refugees;
- Mr. Alexandar Evtimov, Chief of Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy;
- Ms. Alexandra Dimitrova, Attache, Human Rights Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Teofana Stoyanova, Intern, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria in Geneva.

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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bulgaria

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

GE.15-14816(E)

Please recycle

Response of the Government of Bulgaria to recommendations made during the Second Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, 7 May 2015

1. The Government of Bulgaria welcomes the recommendations made during the Second Cycle of its Universal Periodic Review on 7 May 2015 and is pleased to provide the following responses, to be included in the outcome report.

2. The Government of Bulgaria received 182 recommendations. The responses are clustered in three categories: I. Accepted recommendations; II. Accepted recommendations that Bulgaria considers already implemented or in process of implementation; III. Not accepted/ Noted recommendations.

I. Accepted recommendations

3. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria accepts the following recommendations:

Rec.123.1–123.5 – accepted in principle.

Rec.123.6, 123.7 and 123.8 – accepted in principle. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria is currently not planning to ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Fundamental human rights are enshrined in the United Nations Civil and Social Rights Covenants and these rights apply directly to all migrants in Bulgaria. The national legislation already guarantees most of the rights contained in the Convention and shares its objectives. The rights of migrant workers are also protected by the existing EU legislation. A final decision on ratification will be reached as a joint decision by all EU Member States;

Rec.123.11–123.22;

Rec.123.23 – accepted in principle. It should be noted that at present the Republic of Bulgaria does not consider necessary the creation of such an institution, since the amendments to the Ombudsman Act from 2012 stipulate that the Ombudsman protects and promotes the rights of children and young people by all legal means;

Rec.123.24–123.30;

Rec.123.31 – accepted. It should be taken into consideration that the term *national minority* is incorrect as it has no grounds in the Bulgarian legislation;

Rec.123.32–123.36; 123.39–123.45;

Rec.123.46 – accepted under the stipulation that "prohibiting" is an incorrect term;

Rec.123.47–123.48; 123.50–123.54; 123.56–123.57; 123.59–123.61; 123.63–123.75;

Rec.123.76 – accepted with the reservation that the word "increase" represents a subjective point of view and cannot be accounted for;

Rec.123.77–123.79; 123.82–123.84;

Rec.123.85 – accepted with the reservation that to "end discrimination" would be technically impossible, but vigorous efforts are being made to minimize all such cases;

Rec.123.86–123.90; 123.92–123.96; 123.100–123.116; 123.118; 123.120–123.124; 123.126–123.137; 123.139; 123.142–123.144; 123.147–123.150;

Rec.123.151 – see rec. 123.31;

Rec.123.153–123.155; 123.158–123.161;

Rec.123.166 – accepted in principle. It should be noted that migrants' human rights are fully protected, once they've been granted international protection or refugee status;

Rec.123.167–123.168; 123.170–123.182.

II. Accepted recommendations that Bulgaria considers already implemented or in process of implementation

4. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria accepts the following recommendations and considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:

Rec.123.37–123.38 – We consider that this recommendation is implemented. The Republic of Bulgaria has a comprehensive and extensive legislation ensuring wider employment opportunities for women, based on the National Strategy and National Action Plan for Promotion of Gender Equality. The Bulgarian society is known for its respect towards women and the lack of severe negative stereotypes. The Government is actively promoting the elimination of traditional division of roles between women and men in family relations and upbringing of children. Special measures are being taken to create the necessary conditions for women to successfully combine professional and family life which is directly linked to women's workload and their position on the labour market, as well as their income and economic independence;

Rec.123. 49 – We consider that this recommendation is implemented. The principle of non-discrimination, including based on gender, has been incorporated throughout the Bulgarian legislation. It applies equally to all Bulgarian citizens. The Protection against Discrimination Act (PaDA) forbids all forms of direct and indirect discrimination based on 19 grounds, including gender (art. 4), and such acts have been criminalized in Chapter III of the Penal Code;

Rec.123.58 – We consider that this recommendation is implemented. The entire national legislation guarantees equal access to education, housing and employment to all Bulgarian citizens, including those of Roma origin;

Rec.123.62 – We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The incitement to hatred is criminalized by the Penal Code. The Commission for Protection against Discrimination collects data for all cases of incitement of hatred, including hatred motivated by xenophobia and homophobia. Serious and adequate steps have been taken to boost the national legislation ensuring protection against hate crimes. Furthermore, there is extensive EU legislation on the matter, which the state bodies fully implement;

Rec.123.81 – We consider that the implementation of this recommendation is ongoing. The Constitution prohibits racial discrimination in the most categorical manner. According to the established case-law, racist motivation should be considered as an aggravating circumstance by the court in criminal offences. Draft amendments to the Penal Code introduce the criminalization of public incitement to violence or hate on religious grounds. All hate crimes are punishable and are being prosecuted with the full capacity of the State.

Although, under the Penal Code, sexual orientation and gender identity are not explicitly defined as aggravating circumstances, there is no obstacle for such elements of the crime to be taken into account – during the trial or while establishing the verdict.

The Bulgarian authorities note the recommendation to include the notion "sexual orientation";

Rec.123.91 – We consider that activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The Republic of Bulgaria is improving its national legal framework to bring it in line with the standards of the Council of Europe and to strengthen the capacity of the competent institutions involved in cases of domestic violence and gender-based violence. All cases of domestic violence, which can be qualified as crimes, are adequately prosecuted and effectively investigated;

Rec.123.97–123.98 – We consider that significant measures have already been taken in view of overcoming the recommendation – training of magistrates for the enforcement of the domestic violence protection measures; training of persons who are responsible for the provision of the protection under the law; social, psychological and legal consultation of domestic violence victims and specialized programmes for the perpetrators of domestic violence; providing victims of domestic violence with access to shelters and other support services;

Rec.123.99 – Regarding the first part of the recommendation, we consider that activities for it implementation are ongoing and we accept the second part of the recommendation as already implemented. According to the Bulgarian legislation, matrimony may be concluded by a person at the age of 18. Upon exception, in case that important reasons impose this, matrimony may be concluded by a person at the age of 16 with a permission by the court;

Rec.123.117 – We consider that this recommendation is implemented. The Republic of Bulgaria has an adequate system for victim protection which fully incorporates all relevant international standards. The fulfilment of the victim's rights is guaranteed by the existing procedural mechanisms, and no limitations are put in place for the victims of hate crimes;

Rec.123.119 – We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing, paying attention that "establishing" is an incorrect term. A process of revision and renovation of the Bulgarian juvenile justice system is currently undergoing to adequately respond to the changes in the society and to correspond to the up-date standards in the field of juvenile justice, while reflecting the international good practices and Bulgarian traditions;

Rec. 123.125 – We consider that this recommendation is implemented. The family as a fundamental unit has been provided with legal protection on the highest possible level – in the Constitution and throughout the entire national legislation;

Rec. 123.138 – We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The right to education for all children without discrimination is fully realized. We will continue the implementation of the activities to minimise the dropout rates in schools and pre-schools among minority and vulnerable groups;

Rec. 123.140 – We consider that this recommendation is implemented. All children have equal access to education, regardless of their ethnic origin. Regarding the term *national minority* see rec. 31;

Rec. 123.145 – We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. In June 2015, an Action Plan was adopted for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A National Strategy for people with disabilities is in the process of preparation;

Rec. 123.146 – We consider that this recommendation is implemented. There is a Draft Law on the Protection of Natural Persons and the Protective Measures prepared that introduces guarantees for the protection of persons with mental disabilities in full compliance with the Art.12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Furthermore, a general prohibition on discrimination, also on grounds of "disability" is introduced in the Protection against Discrimination Act (PaDA). A special section of the PaDA is dedicated to protection in cases of exercising the right to education and training. The system of social services in Bulgaria has developed considerably during the past few years thanks to the recent reforms aimed at deinstitutionalization and provision of more community-based services in a family environment for children and adults with disabilities. There is a steady increase in the services provided in the community as an alternative to institutional care. The construction of well-functioning network of social services in the community and providing quality long-term care is a top priority for the social policy of the Bulgarian government.

We express our disagreement with the word "adopt", since the Republic of Bulgaria has a number of public norms and policies for the protection of people with disabilities (see rec. 123.145);

Rec.123.156–123.157 – We consider that the implementation of these recommendations is already ongoing. The State will continue its efforts to strengthen policies to integrate Roma population and to continue the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy with special focus on employment, health, housing and education;

Rec.123.162 – We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. There is a Draft Law Amending and Supplementing the Penal Code that is under discussion at the National Assembly. The Draft envisages amendments to Art. 79 of the Penal Code, concerning deletion of the statute of limitation for prosecution and implementation of punishments in view of certain crimes, committed on political reasons by persons, associated with the communist regime after 9th of September 1944;

Rec.123.169 – We consider that this recommendation is already implemented. The correct name of the integration strategy is National Strategy on Migration, Asylum and Integration (2015–2020). The national legislation provides sound protection of the rights and freedoms of refugees and asylum seekers.

III. Not accepted/ Noted recommendations

5. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria cannot accept the following recommendations:

Rec.123.9 – The national legislation already guarantees the rights of all workers to the maximal possible extend, regardless of their activity. Furthermore, Bulgaria is state party to the main acts of the International Labour Organisation and is committed to their implementation;

Rec.123.10 – The Republic of Bulgaria has ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on 16 December 1986;

Rec.123.55 – The national legislation guarantees equal access to all forms of education to all Bulgarian citizens, regardless of their gender and/or ethnic background;

Rec.123.152 – The Republic of Bulgaria is a state party to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe. All rights

and freedoms therein are respectively protected by the Constitution and the national legislation. Every person belonging to an ethnic, religious or linguistic minority is entitled to self-identification without any adverse consequences;

Rec.123.80, 123.141, 123.163, 123.164 and 123.165.

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Thirtieth session
Agenda item 6
Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Bulgaria

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

Corrigendum

1. Paragraph 4

After Rec. 123.140, *insert*

Rec. 123.141 – Recommendation accepted in principle. We consider that this recommendation is implemented.

2. Paragraph 5, last line

Delete 123.141

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Please recycle

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Honduras

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-second session from 4 to 15 May 2015. The review of Honduras was held at the 9th meeting, on 8 May 2015. The delegation of Honduras was headed by Secretary of State, General Coordinator of Government, José Ramón Hernández Alcerro. At its 14th meeting, held on 12 May 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Honduras.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Honduras: Namibia, Paraguay and the Republic of Korea.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Honduras:

(a) A national report (A/HRC/WG.6/22/HND/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/HND/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR (A/HRC/WG.6/22/HND/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, was transmitted to Honduras through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the Working Group. Additional questions raised during the dialogue by Montenegro, India and France are summarized in section I.B below.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation noted that Honduras had submitted its first report to the universal periodic review in 2010. Since then, Honduras had been implementing the recommendations it had received. As a demonstration of its commitment to human rights, in 2013, Honduras had submitted a voluntary mid-term progress report.

6. With the assistance of OHCHR, Honduras had also led an extensive consultation process for the development of a public policy and the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2013–2022.

7. Honduras noted that the national report for its second universal periodic review had been drafted following broad discussions at national level, including with civil society.

8. In the past five years, Honduras had held two general elections with the participation of new political movements from a broad ideological spectrum. Honduras now participated fully in all international forums and had diplomatic relations with more than a hundred countries. Commercial and financial exchanges and services had also allowed Honduras to have positive economic growth. Progress on citizen security and social protection programmes were very important for Honduras.

9. Honduras had implemented 106 recommendations of a total of 129 recommendations received in 2010. Another 20 were in the process of being completed and

only three recommendations had so far not been implemented. Those achievements were the result of a series of efforts highlighted during the presentation and in the second national report, and showed the commitment of Honduras to human rights.

10. Honduras recognized that the universal periodic review offered an invaluable space for dialogue with civil society and the international community. The composition of the delegation attending the universal periodic review reflected the work of all institutions in the field of human rights.

11. Reference was made to progress in the development of a policy and institutional framework, as well as cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

12. Reference was also made to the amendments introduced to, among others, domestic legislation to define the crimes of disappearance of persons, torture, discrimination and incitement to hatred, in accordance with international norms.

13. The National Human Rights Commissioner had been appointed through a competitive public process. The Executive Branch had created the Secretariat for Human Rights and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The National Action Plan on Human Rights had been adopted.

14. Honduras had made a concerted effort to submit reports due to the treaty bodies. In the framework of the open invitation to special procedures, visits had been made by five special rapporteurs and working groups and the subsequent recommendations had been taken into account in the National Action Plan on Human Rights. Honduras had also complied with judgements of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

15. Since the first cycle, the National Congress had ratified six core international human rights instruments and withdrawn reservations about the status of refugees.

16. The delegation noted that Honduras had been the victim of the aggression of organized crime and had taken forceful measures to combat it. Honduras was no longer the main bridge for the traffic of drugs between South and North America or the most violent country in the world. Honduras had managed to make significant progress in protecting the right to life. The national police had been subjected to a process of profound reform. Honduras had also reinforced the public security system by approving a legal and institutional framework that had enabled a reduction in killings and violence in general, although there was still much to do.

17. The national policy for the prevention of violence against children and young persons of Honduras had also been adopted.

18. Between 2014 and 2015, no murder or violent death linked to social conflicts had been committed.

19. Regarding the protection of persons at risk, Honduras had complied with measures recommended by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and precautionary provisional measures issued by the Inter-American Court. The National Congress had approved the law on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials, which was being regulated in a participatory and inclusive manner. The law provided for a series of preventive measures and emergency protection according to the type of risk faced by a person, and the creation of a protection system within the Secretariat for Human Rights.

20. Measures against trafficking in persons, contained in the recently passed law, had also been introduced.

21. The creation and integration of the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment was noteworthy. The Committee had

established itself as a national, independent institution with administrative, technical and budgetary autonomy.

22. Regarding democracy and participation, the National Congress had amended the Constitution to allow bills to be introduced by plebiscite, referendum and citizen's initiative. A constitutional amendment had also been made to include the guarantee of *habeas data* as a mechanism of protection of private data and the rights to honour, privacy and personal image.

23. Impeachment and the right to freedom of association were also guaranteed as part of the constitutional reform.

24. In relation to the rights of indigenous peoples, Honduras promoted access to land. The Secretariat for Energy, Natural Resources and the Environment was currently working with the Confederation of Autochthonous Peoples of Honduras in drafting a bill on prior and informed consultation of indigenous peoples.

25. The National Commission against Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance had also been reactivated.

26. With regard to sexual diversity, Honduras had prioritized the implementation of actions in the National Action Plan on Human Rights in favour of that group. Actions included legal reforms, awareness-raising and training.

27. In the areas of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as efforts to combat poverty, the Constitution had been amended to include the right to water and sanitation. Among others, Honduras launched a plan for the prevention of pregnancy in adolescents, strengthened public education and adopted legislation to address the impact of climate change.

28. Honduras had created the Directorate on Children, Adolescent and Family Issues, which had an agreement with local governments to launch the national system of protection of children for local- and national-level actions. It was also in the process of ratifying the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

29. The special criminal justice programme, favouring alternative measures, had been created by the Directorate. The Directorate also monitored all social reintegration programmes. Special criminal justice programmes had been introduced by Honduras as part of the Partnership Plan for Prosperity.

30. The protection of children against abuse was a principle incorporated in the Constitution. The National Congress had approved a comprehensive reform of the Children and Adolescents Code and the Family Code, taking into account the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

31. The delegation referred to the request made to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to open an OHCHR country office in Honduras. Honduras believed that the office would contribute to strengthening the national system for the protection of human rights. It would open up spaces for dialogue, and monitor and report objectively on the human rights situation in the country. The High Commissioner would also provide technical assistance to institutions in Honduras.

32. The President of the Supreme Court of Justice reported that the National Congress had created the Council of the Judiciary and Judicial Staff, which eliminated the possibility of discretionary or political appointments. To ensure the right of citizens to demand accountability for the conduct of judicial officials, all decisions of the Council can be reviewed before ordinary and constitutional courts.

33. Honduras had created national judges who dealt with organized crime cases, to protect judges from external influence. It was also part of an Organization of American States judicial programme which aimed at strengthening access to justice. Through the Centre for the Support and Protection of Women's Rights, the judiciary had also put into practice, with the participation of civil society, coordinated actions to assist women victims of violence. The Public Defender had also assigned human resources to assist women, including through awareness-raising for the empowerment of women deprived of their liberty.

34. The President of the Supreme Court of Justice referred to the case of the judges separated from their posts in 2009, coinciding with the institutional crisis in Honduras that same year. He reiterated that the decision by the Supreme Court of Justice had been based on the verification of the Commission's various violations of the disciplinary provisions to which such former officials were subject. At the time, the former officials had had access to legal recourses, which had not yet been exhausted.

35. The President of the Legislative Commission on Human Rights noted that the National Congress of Honduras had legislative functions, and oversight functions of the work of public authorities. It played an essential role in the promotion and protection of human rights. The Congress had created spaces for dialogue and consultations with civil society, non-governmental organizations and other interested groups, which had generated a considerable number of legislative proposals.

36. Close cooperation was maintained with United Nations entities and the international community in general. The Congress was working on a priority basis on issues related to the fulfilment of the rights of children, education, security, development, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex groups, indigenous communities and Afro-descendants, the environment and gender. It had identified as a challenge the construction of a legislative agenda agreed with the relevant institutions and civil society.

37. The Congress had the responsibility of ensuring that institutions with a responsibility to protect and promote human rights, such as the Supreme Court of Justice, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the National Human Rights Commissioner, had the necessary resources to implement their respective mandates. The Congress also played a role in the selection of persons for those positions, received their annual reports and had the responsibility of publicly assessing their performance.

38. The Secretary of State for Human Rights, Justice, Governance and Decentralization reported that, in 2012, the Law on the National Prison System had been adopted. It created the National Penitentiary Institute, assigned resources for the construction of four new prisons to reduce prison overcrowding and contributed to the governance of 29 centres of deprivation of liberty. A new corps of correctional officers had also been created.

39. The Secretariat for Human Rights, together with the National Penitentiary Institute and with the advice of the Human Rights Adviser of OHCHR, had been coordinating the development of the first national policy on the penitentiary, which was expected to be completed soon. The General Regulation of the Law on the National Penitentiary System had been approved and the National Penitentiary Academy was being designed. The provision of food and access to hydro-sanitary and electric systems in detention centres had also been improved.

40. In 2014, the National Institute for Migration for the implementation of the law on migration and the immigration policy had been created. One of the main achievements had been the introduction of the immigration control biometric system and the establishment of a mechanism for combating trafficking.

41. Honduras had also tackled the emerging migration of unaccompanied minors. Through institutional and intersectoral coordination under the leadership of the First Lady of Honduras, the Special Commission for Migrant Children offered comprehensive services of reception, health assessment, counselling support, training for work, school reintegration, emergency food aid and economic aid so that children and family units could return to their places of origin. Those actions have resulted in a substantial reduction of unaccompanied children.

42. The Minister of the National Institute for Women noted that Honduras was determined to make structural changes in favour of women's equality. The elaboration of the Second Gender Equality and Equity Plan had been led by the National Institute for Women through a national consultation process. The Institute was currently implementing an advocacy strategy and strengthening institutional mechanisms.

43. Honduras had established Gender Units in the Judicial Branch, Secretaries for Health and Safety, and Gender Commissions in different municipalities. Processes were also coordinated in Municipal Offices for Women.

44. Honduras had incorporated femicide in legislation and imposed penalties on the perpetrators of that crime. The Law against Trafficking of Persons and the National Plan against Violence towards Women had also been adopted.

45. Honduras had launched a public-awareness campaign to eradicate the practices of sexual harassment at work, covering public offices and the private sector.

46. The Protocol for Comprehensive Assistance to Women Victims of Violence and a technical guide for use by health officials and justice operators had been developed. Shelters in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula had also been established.

47. Honduras had adopted the Law on Equality of Wages between Women and Men. There was a dialogue with the feminist movement, which allowed the State to ensure better social impact and to promote a better quality of life for women in Honduras.

48. The Undersecretary of Labour and Social Security referred to the Second National Plan of Action for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour, which envisaged the creation of national structures, the ratification of international norms, the harmonization of national legislation and strengthening of national capacities and knowledge. A road map to make Honduras a country free from child labour and its worst forms had been adopted. An agreement had recently been signed with the United States of America to implement a programme called "Bright futures" with an investment of US$ 7.5 million in four years.

49. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security had the responsibility of ensuring that the employment conditions were decent. Efforts were being made for the professionalization of the General Directorate of Inspection through various regulatory proposals, such as the Law on Inspection and an International Labour Organization (ILO) audit process.

50. A tripartite commission had also been created to follow up on the compliance of the action plan on the Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

51. Honduras had also signed an agreement for the promotion of investment, protection of employment, health and access to housing for workers of the Honduran *maquila* textiles sector.

52. A social protection system framework law had been approved. Thanks to the promotion of investment of the private sector and reactivation of the agricultural and housing sectors, and various government placement programmes, new job opportunities had been generated. Efforts were also under way, together with the National Congress, to

improve the employability of young people. One goal was for the generation of 200,000 job opportunities.

53. The Undersecretary of State in the Offices of Development and Social Inclusion referred to the policy of social protection and the Better Life programme targeting people in condition of poverty and extreme poverty, with components of healthy housing, such as water filters, latrines, ecological ovens, construction of cement floors, storage of water, roofs and solidarity bags with food, which had benefited more than 100,000 families.

54. Other programmes included ones for productive micro-enterprises and family farming, the Presidential Better Life Bonus programme and the School Lunch programme.

55. Honduras was currently holding consultations for the elaboration of a policy against racism and racial discrimination to ensure the social and political participation of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants and the exercise of intercultural citizenship, as well as the right to bilingual intercultural education, right to health, land and natural resources.

56. A public policy and strategic plan to guarantee the human rights of persons with disabilities had been adopted. Honduras had also subscribed to the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

57. The Undersecretary of Human Rights and Justice noted that, after the first universal periodic review, Honduras had led a broad process of consultation to design and adopt the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2013–2022, which incorporated and transformed into strategic action over 1,200 recommendations, including from civil society, the human rights treaty bodies and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

58. The first phase of the Human Rights Observatory, to measure progress on human rights issues and to facilitate reporting to treaty bodies and society in general, was also under way. Honduras was currently designing an integrated monitoring and evaluation system to assess the impact of the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

59. Honduras was committed to continuing the citizen's dialogue and participation. It would share the outcome of the second review and promote the implementation of subsequent recommendations.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

60. During the interactive dialogue, 60 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report. All written statements of the delegations, to be checked against delivery on the United Nations Webcast archives,[1] are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council when available.

61. Guatemala commended the creation of the Secretariat for Human Rights and the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It shared the concern of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination regarding the loss of the A-status by the National Human Rights Commission.

62. The Holy See acknowledged Honduran efforts to bring national legislation into greater conformity with the international human rights instruments, especially those relating to the prevention of enforced disappearances and torture, the national human rights institution and the ratification of several instruments.

[1] http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/human-rights-council/universal-periodic-review/watch/honduras-review-22nd-session-of-universal-periodic-review/4224969251001

63. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the decisive commitment of Honduras to address challenges and highlighted progress made since the first review.

64. Indonesia welcomed Honduran efforts to set up mechanisms to further promote and protect human rights including the adoption of the Public Policy and National Action Plan on Human Rights 2013–2022 and looked forward to full implementation of that plan.

65. Ireland was deeply concerned at the climate of violence and insecurity affecting human rights defenders in Honduras, and was also concerned at widespread and systematic violence against women and girls.

66. Italy welcomed the adoption of the Public Policy and National Action Plan on Human Rights 2013–2022 and actions taken to provide human rights training for military personnel and the police to combat violence against women and children.

67. Lebanon welcomed the desire of Honduras to work towards the promotion of human rights for its people and welcomed its accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

68. Madagascar welcomed the participative and inclusive approach of Honduras in drafting its national report, as well as the advances in combating poverty and improving social protection, the quality of education, health and the protection of vulnerable persons.

69. Mexico recognized progress, in particular the strengthening of the legislative framework. It valued efforts for the strengthening of the public security system and the reforms introduced to the electoral law.

70. Montenegro commended Honduras for a comprehensive reform of legislation covering children, families and women in the sphere of justice. It welcomed the willingness for the opening of an OHCHR country office. Montenegro asked about measures taken to improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups with a view to reducing the negative impact of migrant flows.

71. Namibia congratulated Honduras on the creation of a specific ministerial portfolio for human rights with responsibility for facilitating dialogue with the international human rights community and on the adoption of the Public Policy and National Action Plan on Human Rights 2013–2022.

72. The Netherlands appreciated the ratification of the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty and other measures taken. It was concerned that there was an environment in which vulnerable groups were victims of threats, violence and sometimes murder and at the number of social conflicts relating to mining or hydroelectric projects.

73. Nicaragua commended Honduras for introducing legislative and institutional reforms to strengthen the human rights protection. It encouraged Honduras to consolidate its national human rights action plan, taking into account the outcome of the second review.

74. Nigeria welcomed the introduction of various government policies aimed at the establishment of a public policy and national plan on human rights and improvement in the security situation.

75. Norway noted efforts to bring national legislation into line with international obligations and the development of the Public Policy and National Action Plan on Human Rights. It expressed concern about the removal of four judges by the Congress.

76. Panama expressed its appreciation for the implementation of recommendations from the first review. It commended the commitment of Honduras to cooperating with the international human rights mechanisms, which was reflected in the standing invitation issued to the special procedures.

77. Paraguay welcomed the establishment of a national mechanism for the follow-up of the recommendations from the universal periodic review. It took note of progress made in the development of legislation. It expressed concern about the vulnerability of women, children and migrants, including non-accompanied children.

78. Peru highlighted progress made by Honduras, notably the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, the ratification of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as well the harmonization of domestic legislation with their international obligations.

79. The Philippines noted the multi-year National Action Plan on Human Rights; efforts to align domestic legislation with international human rights standards; and the ratification of human rights conventions. It expressed concern about the unaccompanied children leaving Honduras.

80. Poland welcomed the latest constitutional and legal reforms. It expressed concerns about cases of violence against journalists and judges, and the lack of independent investigations of those cases.

81. Portugal noted the amendment of the Criminal Code that brought the definition of torture in line with international standards and the adoption of the Education Act providing for free and compulsory education. It expressed concern about violence against women.

82. Qatar stated that considerable progress had been made in harmonizing national legislation with international standards. It noted efforts that had been made to enhance security and public order.

83. The Republic of Korea noted the policies for vulnerable groups, the revision of the definitions of torture and enforced disappearances and the efforts made to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

84. Romania noted the efforts that had been made to implement recommendations from the first review. It congratulated Honduras for cooperating with the human rights mechanisms, particularly special procedures.

85. The Russian Federation welcomed the implementation of international treaties. It noted the adoption of National Action Plan on Human Rights 2013–2022 and supported efforts taken to establish a human rights department within the Cabinet of Ministers.

86. Rwanda noted the establishment of a human rights portfolio in the Cabinet, the implementation of a vast majority of recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the policy and National Action Plan on Human Rights 2013–2022.

87. Sierra Leone urged Honduras to develop incentives for the participation of poor, marginalized communities; implement laws prohibiting hate crimes and violence against women of African descent; and seek funding to address the problems of drugs and human trafficking.

88. Singapore acknowledged the progress made in reducing the murder rate, commended Honduras for its commitment to protecting the rights of women and recognized the efforts taken under the Better Life Programme to provide housing upgrades and improvements.

89. Slovenia welcomed efforts to bring the legislation into line with international standards. It noted that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had deplored the assaults of indigenous and Afro-Honduran leaders and journalists, and also noted the draft bill on the protection of human rights defenders.

90. Spain underscored the readiness of Honduras to open an OHCHR country office. It was concerned about high levels of violence against women and girls, and the high impunity rate in those cases.

91. Sweden welcomed the decision of Honduras to request the establishment of an OHCHR country office. It welcomed the amendment of the Criminal Code to incorporate femicide as a specific crime. It was concerned about violence against women and impunity for perpetrators. It noted the concern of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women regarding the ban on abortion.

92. Switzerland welcomed the upcoming opening of an OHCHR country office. It considered that the engagement of human rights defenders must be better protected. It was also concerned about the increasing militarization of the country.

93. Thailand commended Honduras on establishing the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. It noted the reduction of murder rate over the past years and the enactment of the Basic Education Act. It encouraged Honduras to consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

94. Timor-Leste welcomed the establishment of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

95. Trinidad and Tobago commended the establishment of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, the mobile magistrates' courts, the redistribution of State land to the benefit of indigenous and Afro-Hondurans and the enshrinement of the right to water and sanitation as a constitutional right.

96. Turkey welcomed Honduran Public Policy and National Action Plan on Human Rights, the Gender Equality and Equity Plan, and cooperation with special procedures. It welcomed the opening of an OHCHR office.

97. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the Criminal Code amendments. It was concerned about the intention to use military police to tackle security, and continued high levels of impunity and difficulties by significant sectors of society in accessing justice.

98. The United States of America congratulated Honduras for its goal of opening an OHCHR office, its accord with Transparency International and the passing of a law to protect human rights defenders. It urged continued efforts to strengthen the justice and security sectors for all Hondurans, ensure independence of the Nominating Committee, and strengthen the Honduran National Police.

99. Uruguay commended Honduras for the adoption of a comprehensive reform of the Children and Adolescents Code, and the Family Code. It welcomed the adoption of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and the bill on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials.

100. India commended the adoption of the Public Policy and National Action Plan on Human Rights and of other plans and measures. It encouraged Honduras to continue its efforts to make its national human rights institution compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and welcomed the announcement of the opening of an OHCHR office later in 2015. India asked the delegation to share information on the issue of unaccompanied child migrants.

101. Algeria welcomed the Honduran 2014–2020 Plan for Human Dignity (*Vanguardia de la Dignidad Humana*), the establishment of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, reduction in violence against women and cooperation with treaty bodies.

102. Angola welcomed the national policy for the prevention of violence against children and young persons in Honduras and the reformed Criminal Code. It was concerned about violence towards minority groups.

103. Argentina commended Honduras for the harmonization of domestic legislation with international human rights norms, including the amendment introduced to the Criminal Code and the definition of enforced disappearance as a specific offence.

104. Australia welcomed the Honduran establishment of a special court against domestic violence. It noted concern about violence against women. It urged Honduras to implement recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

105. Austria welcomed Honduran approval of the Public Policy and National Action Plan on Human Rights. It was concerned about attacks against journalists and impunity in that regard. Austria remained worried about shortcomings in the administration of justice, and ongoing discrimination against indigenous, Afro-Honduran and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

106. Belgium welcomed the opening of an OHCHR country office. It was, however, concerned about challenges, in particular with regard to the independence of the justice system and the fight against impunity, violence against women and freedom of expression.

107. Brazil commended Honduras for a comprehensive reform of the legislation on right of children, families and women and welcomed steps taken to reduce violence against women.

108. Canada encouraged Honduras to continue its efforts to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and justice sector officials and also encouraged it to reduce overcrowding in prisons and juvenile detention centre by respecting maximum occupancy rates and taking other measures.

109. Chile was concerned about the perseverance of violence, intimidation and attacks against human rights defenders, judges, prosecutors and journalists. It welcomed the discussion and adoption of a law on the subject.

110. China appreciated that Honduras had implemented recommendations from the first review and welcomed its cooperation with treaty bodies, special procedures and the inter-American system for human rights protection. It noted the challenges faced by Honduras in human rights protection and requested the international community to provide technical and financial support.

111. Colombia underscored efforts to comply with recommendations from the previous cycle of universal periodic review, in particular the National Action Plan on Human Rights, and actions related to previous recommendations made by Colombia on the fight against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

112. Costa Rica stated that the Honduran commitment would be strengthened with the establishment of an OHCHR country office and welcomed the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It expressed concern about the high level of violence, particularly against women, journalists and human rights defenders.

113. Cuba underscored the adoption of the social protection policy in 2012, the Law on Protection Benefits and Regularization of Informal Activity and the Law on Vaccines,

which had been developed despite important challenges, including structural poverty, inequality and crime.

114. The Czech Republic thanked Honduras for its presentation and made recommendations.

115. Denmark recognized Honduran efforts to break the vicious circle of human rights violations, but was concerned about reports that the human rights situation had worsened since the first universal periodic review. It regretted the decision to downgrade certain relevant ministries and was concerned at reported impunity for attacks on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

116. Ecuador welcomed reforms of the Criminal Code, particularly those related to enforced disappearance, torture, discrimination and incitement to hatred. It welcomed measures adopted to strengthen the judiciary, through the Council of the Judiciary and Judicial Staff.

117. Equatorial Guinea welcomed amendments to the Constitution, which had extended participatory democracy mechanisms through the system of popular initiatives. It also welcomed efforts to integrate into its decision-making a human rights-based approach taking into account the contributions of civil society organizations.

118. Estonia commended the National Action Plan on Racism and Racial Discrimination and expressed concern that indigenous and Afro-Honduran women continued to face multiple forms of discrimination. It invited Honduras to ensure that human rights defenders could freely carry out their activities without unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals.

119. France asked about the follow-up to the efforts taken to improve the conditions of detention in Honduras.

120. Germany acknowledged the partial reforms made to the Criminal Code. It expressed concern about persistent human rights violations, particularly regarding the right to life, widespread impunity and discrimination against women, children, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and indigenous population.

121. To conclude, Honduras thanked States for their participation in the second review, and for their comments and recommendations. Honduras believed that the universal periodic review generated opportunities to assess progress and challenges and opened spaces for improving human rights in the country.

122. Honduras was committed to having a permanent mechanism to follow-up on the commitments made as part of the universal periodic review. It was currently working on the establishment of a human rights observatory and would strengthen the role of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to respond to the various reports that the State was committed to submitting. Honduras would also create a monitoring and assessment system for the National Action Plan on Human Rights and continue the dialogue with civil society.

123. Honduras acknowledged that, while it had made some progress during the past years, there were structural, institutional and cultural challenges that it still needed to overcome. With the support of the friends of Honduras, the country hoped to build a country which was free from extreme poverty, educated, healthy, democratic, safe and without violence.

II. Conclusions and recommendations**

124. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below enjoy the support of Honduras:**

124.1 **Continue working towards the harmonization of its domestic legislation with the international human rights instruments to which it is a State Party (Nicaragua);**

124.2 **Draft guidelines to report violations of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty through the national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Panama);**

124.3 **Allocate adequate resources for the implementation of its National Action Plan on Human Rights (Philippines);**

124.4 **Adopt new concrete measures for the implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights of 2013, in order to sustain the decrease in crime rates in the context of strengthening the rule of law (France);**

124.5 **Consider developing Human Rights Indicators as suggested by the OHCHR as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of national human rights policies (Portugal);**

124.6 **Strengthen the functioning of the National Commission against Racial Discrimination Racism, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance in favour of intercultural dialogue, tolerance and awareness-raising programmes (Argentina);**

124.7 **Step up awareness campaigns through the national plan of action to combat racism and racial discrimination that is currently being drafted (Panama);**

124.8 **Strengthen the institutional framework undertaken for the benefit of indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples (Equatorial Guinea);**

124.9 **Effectively implement the Gender Equality and Equity Plan 2010–2022, by allocating technical and financial resources to achieve the envisaged objectives as well as the reopening of the emergency "line 114" to provide care to women victims of gender violence (Spain);**

124.10 **Implement policies and programs that promote tolerance and non-discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and to guarantee the compliance with the current norms in order to punish offences and violence motivated by prejudices (Uruguay);**

124.11 **Strengthen its national institutions in charge of the promotion and protection of human rights, with a view to fostering access to justice, particularly for the most vulnerable groups, such as women, older persons, children, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, people of African descent and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Brazil);**

124.12 **Develop a national action plan to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including specific actions to strengthen the implementation of ILO convention No. 169 (Netherlands);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

124.13 **Support the efforts of the national mechanism for the follow-up of universal periodic review recommendations through the establishment of an online monitoring system (Paraguay);**

124.14 **Cooperate closely with the OHCHR office to be soon established in the country while implementing universal periodic review recommendations (Czech Republic);**

124.15 **Submit the overdue report to the relevant United Nations treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);**

124.16 **Reply in a timely manner to all thematic special procedure communications (Montenegro);**

124.17 **Improve birth registration system and be supported by awareness-raising activities, in order to sustain the rise in registration numbers, especially in rural areas (Turkey);**

124.18 **Undertake awareness-raising campaigns and programmes to promote tolerance and to address violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Slovenia);**

124.19 **Strengthen actions that aim at eliminating cultural patterns that discriminate against women, promoting adequate access to judicial protection in order to prevent cases of violence affecting their life, health and integrity remaining unpunished (Chile);**

124.20 **End discrimination in law and practice against indigenous and Afro-Honduran people and strengthen protection for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Austria);**

124.21 **Take appropriate measures to improve living conditions and address the issue of overcrowding in prisons and other detention centres, as well as to reduce violence between and among prisoners (Republic of Korea);**

124.22 **Take effective measures to bring conditions of detention in line with international standards, in particular by reducing overcrowding and inter-prisoner violence (Austria);**

124.23 **Implement the recommendations contained in the 2013 report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the status of persons deprived of liberty in Honduras, and that the national penitentiary policy is finalized and implemented accordingly (Denmark);**

124.24 **Consider widening the criminal legislation, not only criminalizing cases of femicide, but also all cases of violence against women (Guatemala);**

124.25 **Create specialized courts responsible exclusively for cases of domestic violence which are particularly problematic (Guatemala);**

124.26 **Take all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Criminal Code offence of gender-related killings of women and to guarantee effective access to justice for women who are victims of violence, as well as their protection (Ireland);**

124.27 **Guarantee protection and effective access to justice to women victims of violence, including by ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice and by providing sufficient resources and targeted training to law enforcement, the judiciary and health-service personnel (Italy);**

124.28 **Prevent and punish all forms of violence against women and girls; and consolidate a higher representation of women in management and decision making positions (Peru);**

124.29 **Ensure adequate budget allocation to the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (Sweden);**

124.30 **Guarantee protection and access to justice for women who are victims of violence (Belgium);**

124.31 **Step up efforts aimed at effectively preventing violence against women, including rape, domestic violence and sexual harassment (Panama);**

124.32 **Take adequate and necessary measures to address violence against women (Portugal);**

124.33 **Respond effectively to all forms of violence against women including by providing law enforcement official with gender training (Sweden);**

124.34 **Reduce violence against women and increase the number of shelters for battered women (Trinidad and Tobago);**

124.35 **Take specific measures to protect women from being victim of discrimination and violence, including the appropriate investigation of such cases as well as the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators (Turkey);**

124.36 **Take measures to ensure full protection of children at all levels and in all spheres and to ensure that the institutions tasked to implement such measures are adequately funded and resourced in order to carry out this function effectively (Namibia);**[1]

124.37 **Defend children's rights by ensuring that the Directorate on Childhood, Adolescent and Family Issues has the appropriate legislative framework and financial resources to meet its mandate, and by implementing policies and programmes to protect children, adolescents and returned child migrants (Canada);**

124.38 **Re-establish its police unit specialized to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation (Timor-Leste);**

124.39 **Adopt necessary measures to guarantee fair justice for all (Nigeria);**

124.40 **Strengthen the judiciary by implementing a transparent, merit-based and clearly defined selection process for Supreme Court justices (United States of America);**

124.41 **Ensure transparency and impartiality in the appointment process of judges, implementing clear procedures and objective criteria and ensure that judicial staff are not subject to political interference (Switzerland);**

124.42 **Effectively fight impunity against the perpetrators of the crimes against judges, journalists and human rights defenders and conduct effective investigations of human rights violations in these cases (Poland);**

[1] The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: Take measures to ensure full protection of children at all levels and in all spheres, including military operations, and to ensure that the institutions tasked to implement such measures are adequately funded and resourced in order to carry out this function effectively (Namibia).

124.43 **Guarantee that all complaints regarding human rights violations and other abuses committed by the police, armed forces or members of private security companies are subject to, in a brief period of time, independent and exhaustive investigations; and that those responsible for such violations are brought to justice and that the victims have access to reparations (Belgium);**

124.44 **Enhance the Criminal Code which punishes hate crimes (Lebanon);**

124.45 **Take further measures for the effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and women, including femicides, as well as crimes against human rights defenders, journalists, justice workers and campesino community members in Bajo Aguán (Norway);**

124.46 **Exhaustively investigate the killings of women on gender grounds (Spain);**

124.47 **Ensure that all hate crimes are categorized as such and thoroughly investigated (Denmark);**

124.48 **Redefine clearly the role of the military police as a temporary measure and to step up the professionalizing process of the national police to ensure the protection of human rights in all their work (Switzerland);**

124.49 **Enhance efforts to create a safe environment for human rights defenders and journalists (Italy);**

124.50 **Ensure freedom of expression and take steps to end threats and attacks against journalists and human rights defenders, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex defenders (Australia);**

124.51 **Establish effective mechanisms to guarantee the safety of human rights defenders, judges, prosecutors and journalists, and ensure that acts of violence which in many cases result in deaths, intimidation and attacks against them, do not remain unpunished (Chile);**

124.52 **That the implementation of the new law on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials is allocated sufficient resources and without it being necessary to resort to civil society contributions (Switzerland);**

124.53 **Implement the new law (on the protection of human rights defenders, journalist, social communicators and justice officials) through an open consultation and participation process with civil society (Switzerland);**

124.54 **Approve and implement a law on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials, and provide adequate human and financial resources to establish an effective State mechanism to protect those at risk (Belgium);**

124.55 **Improve the effectiveness of prevention, investigation and prosecution of all forms of attacks against human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers and judges in order to lower their incidence and to tackle impunity for these crimes (Czech Republic);**

124.56 **Ensure that a robust law protecting human rights defenders, journalists and justice officials is adopted and effectively implemented and that its impact is regularly assessed (Czech Republic);**

124.57 **Further promote the participation of Afro-Hondurans and the indigenous communities in the public sphere (Sierra Leone); Step-up socioeconomic policies to enable the active participation of people of African descent in economic, social and political sphere (Angola);**

124.58 **Take necessary measures to achieve the social reintegration of boys, girls and adolescents victims of armed gangs (Paraguay);**

123.59 **Improve the precarious situation of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent communities (Estonia).**

125. **The following recommendations enjoy the support of Honduras which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:**

125.1 **Fully adapt their legislation to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Spain); fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia); fully implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in national law (Portugal);**

125.2 **Elaborate a legal framework regarding disciplinary proceedings (for judges) (Norway);**

125.3 **Develop laws against racial discrimination (Lebanon);**

125.4 **Continue its efforts to reform laws on the rights of women and children in the justice sphere (Qatar);**

125.5 **Adopt laws protecting freedom of expression and freedom of the media (Lebanon);**

125.6 **Strengthen the legislative process under way related to the education sector (Equatorial Guinea);**

125.7 **Strengthen the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Guatemala); Continue efforts in ensuring that National Human Rights Commission be strengthened to be in line with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**

125.8 **Take concrete actions to implement the Public Policy and National Action Plan on Human Rights and to ensure that all forms of discrimination against Afro-Honduran peoples and other minority groups is eliminated (Namibia);**

125.9 **Take concrete measures to implement the Public Policy and National Action Plan on Human Rights, including the assigning of appropriate funding (Norway); take all measures necessary to put the public policy and the National Action Plan on Human Rights into practice (Uruguay); pursue the implementation of the Public Policy and the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2013–2022 (Algeria);**

125.10 **Involve civil society more actively in developing national human rights policies, strategies and action plans (Germany);**

125.11 **Continue with the effective implementation of measures to combat discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, particularly through the implementation of differentiated approaches to guarantee the enjoyment of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Colombia);**

125.12 **Continue efforts to address gender-related killing of women and girls (Rwanda);**

125.13 **Strengthen normative standards and measures aimed at eliminating domestic violence perpetrated against women (Sierra Leone);**

125.14 **Continue to strengthen legislative and policy measures to counter violence against women (Singapore);**

125.15 **Continue efforts to reduce violence against children and young persons (Rwanda);**

125.16 **Continue with the policy to reduce violence against children and young people (Algeria);**

125.17 **Provide comprehensive child protection, particularly for unaccompanied minors, by addressing the problems that give rise to their migration, and often to their exploitation, and also affording them the means by which they may be repatriated (Holy See);**

125.18 **Take additional measures to prevent the poor and marginalized children from early entry into the labour market and provide incentives for them to enrol in school (Thailand);**

125.19 **Take further measures to safeguard those Hondurans living abroad, particularly as regards to child's protection, and providing comprehensive protection for migrant boys, girls and non-accompanied adolescents once they are repatriated (Uruguay);**

125.20 **Take measures to empower young people, particularly through education, with a view to preventing them from joining criminal and transnational gangs; and ensure their rehabilitation and social reintegration (Colombia);**

125.21 **Follow up on initiatives taken to strengthen the protection of children's rights (Equatorial Guinea);**

125.22 **Adopt measures to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children (Romania);**

125.23 **Continue to work on combating trafficking in human beings and illegal drug trafficking (Russian Federation);**

125.24 **Conduct a comprehensive review and structural reform of the administration of justice with the aim of ensuring judicial independence and reducing the growing number of cases of impunity (Sweden);**

125.25 **Ensure that human rights bodies such as the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judiciary have the necessary financial and human resources as well as human rights training to guarantee their independence and impartiality so that they can perform their work effectively (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

125.26 **Continue strengthening government capacity to effectively investigate and prosecute all crimes, including labour law violations (United States of America);**

125.27 **Continue strengthening judicial and administrative measures initiated to ensure the effective investigation and punishment of those responsible for acts of violence, in particular those targeting human rights defenders (Argentina);**

125.28 **Raise the capacity and effectiveness of investigation and prosecution of all allegations of torture and ill-treatment by members of both State security**

forces and private companies and strengthen legal safeguards available for victims of torture and ill-treatment (Czech Republic);

125.29 Strengthen efforts to reform the justice and security sector with a view to fighting corruption and strengthening the independence of the judiciary, including by fostering effective supervision and disciplinary control of the criminal justice institutions and by providing adequate supply of financial and human resources (Germany);

125.30 Strengthen and guarantee the autonomy, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by adopting safeguards to prevent irregular dismissals and appointments of judges (Italy); take measures to strengthen and guarantee the autonomy, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including transparent and impartial procedures for appointment and dismissal of judicial officers (Namibia); take effective measures to strengthen and guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by adopting safeguards to prevent irregular dismissals and appointments (Norway); adopt measures to guarantee the independence of the judiciary (Romania);

125.31 Strengthen and guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary by enforcing the constitutional process for electing judges of the Supreme Court, adopting safeguard measures to prevent irregular dismissals and appointments and adopting additional anti-corruption measures (Canada);

125.32 Strengthen independence and transparency of the judiciary and step up efforts to fight impunity by, inter alia, establishing a merit system of selecting and appointing judges and preventing political and other interference in their work, including arbitrary dismissals (Czech Republic);

125.33 Continue efforts towards due protection of women who are part of the victim and witness protection programmes (Ecuador);

125.34 Take decisive steps to combat criminal impunity (Estonia);

125.35 Reinforce the public institutions responsible for the investigations of crimes and the execution of criminal justice, especially in the area of organized criminal activities involving drug and human trafficking, so as to create a more stable and peaceful social environment (Holy See);

125.36 Taking into account the high level of violence which persists in the county, step up efforts to fight crime and tackle impunity with a view to ensuring the rights to life, liberty and security of its citizens (Republic of Korea);

125.37 Take all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Criminal Code, which sanctions the crime of femicide (Slovenia);

125.38 Continue to strengthen the response of its criminal justice system to violent crimes against women and girls; in particular measures to support capacity to investigate, prosecute and punish such crimes (Australia);

125.39 Continue the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Lebanon);

125.40 Take effective measures to reduce and control the proliferation of firearms (Rwanda);

125.41 **Continue to take measures to counter organized crime, in particular drug trafficking with a view to fostering an environment that is conducive to the enjoyment of human rights for all (Singapore);**

125.42 **Formulate and implement a disarmament control and reduction policy (Sweden);**[3]

125.43 **Tighten its regulation on civilian possession of weapons and firearms, enhance oversight on private security companies and put in place stronger safeguards to protect the safety of Honduran citizens, especially in the conflict in the Aguan River Valley (Thailand);**

125.44 **Increase the number of law enforcement officials, judges and prosecutors receiving training specific to human rights and minority groups (Canada);**

125.45 **Strengthen the security apparatus through a civilian police in order to combat impunity, especially in cases of crimes against journalists and femicides, without involving the military apparatus (Costa Rica);**

125.46 **Continue working, nationally and internationally, in the implementation of the Central America security strategy (Nicaragua);**

125.47 **Establish a mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders (Timor-Leste);**

125.48 **Promptly and impartially investigate any allegations of violence or reprisals against journalists and human rights defenders and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable (Austria);**

125.49 **Continue to give priority to efforts aimed at the recognition and protection of journalists and human rights defenders (Colombia);**

125.50 **Respect and protect the right to freedom of expression and strengthen the protection of journalists, civil society activists and human rights defenders against attacks (Estonia);**

125.51 **Ensure provision of adequate financial and human resources for the implementation of the law on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials and commit to reviewing its operation, including its consistency with international human rights standards, after a period of initial implementation (Ireland);**

125.52 **Ensure effective implementation of the law on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials and provide adequate resources to establish an effective protection mechanism for human rights defenders (Italy);**

125.53 **Adopt laws and policies protecting human rights defenders and journalists; involve civil society in this process as well make available sufficient funding for implementation (Netherlands);**

125.54 **Expedite the enactment and implementation of the bill on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and justice officials, and**

[3] The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: Formulate and implement a disarmament policy (Sweden).

provide adequate resources to establish an effective protection mechanism (Sierra Leone);

125.55 **Ensure prompt investigations into attacks and threats against human rights defenders, indigenous people, and journalists as well as to ensure that they can carry out their activities without fear of reprisals (Slovenia);**

125.56 **Continue the proceedings relating to human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials for their full and effective protection, enabling them to perform their functions with all guarantees (Spain);**

125.57 **Guarantee that all human rights defenders in Honduras are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities according to the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (Sweden);**

125.58 **Bring to a conclusion the legislative process and proceed to implement the bill on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, those working in the media, and justice officials (Uruguay);**

125.59 **Guarantee the effective implementation of the bill on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials, including appropriate financing (Brazil);**

125.60 **Pursue the legislative work initiated in 2014 to protect journalists, human rights defenders and some members of the judiciary in the fight against crime (France); consider approving the draft bill for the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials (Paraguay); continue ongoing efforts aimed at the adoption of the law for the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials (Peru);**

125.61 **Create and further implement social policies focused on providing better education, increasing the enrolment of students and reducing the number of school dropouts (Holy See);**

125.62 **Make every effort to respect the dignity of human life, especially of women and children who are most vulnerable to gross abuses (Holy See);**

125.63 **Continue strengthening its social assistance programmes, in favour of the most vulnerable in the country (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

125.64 **Adopt institutional measures to improve the quality of live, ensuring that minors and adolescents remain permanently in the country, and preventing their unaccompanied migration. In the repatriation processes, ensure that the principle of the best interest of the child is respected and promote their effective social reintegration (Mexico);**

125.65 **Continue to promote and protect the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms and rights of its citizens in the areas of education, health, rights of women and children, and persons with disabilities (Nigeria);**

125.66 **Continue further work on the protection of vulnerable groups of the population, such as women, children and youth (Russian Federation);**

125.67 **Strengthen the system for the protection of persons at risk, notably women and children (Angola);**

125.68 **Continue to focus on developing its economy, increasing employment, strengthening poverty eradication and raising the standard of living of its people (China);**

125.69 **Strengthen actions aimed at implementing social inclusion and development policies to reduce levels of inequality and poverty (Ecuador);**

125.70 **Design a comprehensive strategy with a gender and human rights perspective to assist the population that are living in situations of poverty and extreme poverty (Mexico);**

125.71 **Implement measures to reduce poverty and instances of social exclusion among indigenous people and Afro-Honduran communities (Trinidad and Tobago);**

125.72 **Continue to prioritize efforts to improve the health of its people, including through the enactment of water and sanitation services (Singapore);**

125.73 **Continue implementing the policy of free, public, compulsory education, redefining the length and cycles, including by allocating sufficient budget and resources (Indonesia);**

125.74 **Continue reforms initiated in education (Qatar);**

125.75 **Continue implementing concrete actions for the enforcement of the Fundamental Law on Education (Cuba);**

125.76 **Continue ongoing efforts aimed at enhancing the participation and consultations of indigenous peoples on public policies that affect them, fully implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (Peru);**

125.77 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee the human rights of migrant woman and children, including single mothers and unaccompanied children (Paraguay);**

125.78 **Consider entering into bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements with concerned States to address the protection needs of unaccompanied migrant children from Honduras, including their repatriation and reintegration (Philippines);**

125.79 **Adopt measures in order to appropriately receive children and adolescents deported from another country (Poland);**

125.80 **Continue implementing measures to comprehensively address the phenomenon of unaccompanied migrant children (Cuba);**

125.81 **Pursue efforts initiated to limit the flow of migration, especially of unaccompanied children, and continue implementing the legislative framework to achieve a quality education for children (France).**

126. **The following recommendations will be examined by Honduras, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirtieth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2015:**

126.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Madagascar; Montenegro; Costa Rica; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal); consider the ratification or adhesion to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Peru);**

126.2 **Consider the ratification or adhesion to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Peru)[4]; ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal);**

126.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Costa Rica) (Portugal) (Slovenia) (Sweden) (Timor-Leste) (Austria) (Canada); consider the ratification or adhesion to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Peru); consider positively the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Mexico); ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as previously recommended (Spain); sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Turkey); consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Uruguay); pursue the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Chile);**

126.4 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, establishing a communication mechanism in order to strengthen the tools in the fight against violence and discrimination against women (France); take additional steps to guarantee equal access for women to appropriate health services, especially sexual and reproductive health services, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Germany);**

126.5 **Ratify the Arms Trade Treaty thereby providing the potential for reducing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the illegal drug trade and high levels of violence (Trinidad and Tobago);**

126.6 **Ratify ILO Convention No. 189 (Madagascar); step up its efforts towards the ratification of other international human rights conventions, including ILO Convention No. 189 (Philippines);**

126.7 **Align the Criminal Code with the International Code of Medical Ethics and that Honduras considers to legalize abortion in case of rape or incest (Norway);**

126.8 **Adopt a law on gender identity allowing legal recognition in the national register of persons in accordance with their sexual orientation and image of the persons concerned (Madagascar);**

126.9 **Ensure that the Gender Identity Law that is currently before Congress is adopted and implemented (Denmark);**

126.10 **Amend legislation to decriminalize defamation, slander and libel and convert them into matters regulated by civil law rights standards set by the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights**

[4] The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: Consider the ratification or adhesion to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Peru).

observations and recommendations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

126.11 Comply with the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to ensure that security strategies promote prevention and are implemented by properly organized and trained civil police forces and not military forces (Norway);

125.12 Uphold its commitment to introduce a comprehensive police reform plan and pass the new organic police law by June 2015, and share a benchmarked time-bound plan to remove the military from civilian police duties (United States of America).

127. All conclusions and recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State and the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

[English Spanish only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Honduras was headed by S. E. Doctor José Ramón Hernández Alcerro, Secretary of State, General Coordinator of Government and composed of the following members:

- Abogado Jorge Alberto Rivera Avilés, Magistrado Presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia
- Diputado Yury Cristhian Sabas Gutiérres, Presidente de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Congreso Nacional
- Abogado Rigoberto Chang Castillo, Secretario de Estado en los Despachos de Derechos Humanos, Justicia, Gobernación
- Abogado Abraham Alvarenga Urbina, Procurador General de la República
- S.E. Karla Cueva, Suberetaria de Estado en el Despacho de Derechos Humanos y Justicia
- Licenciada Olga Margarita Alvarado Rodriguez, Subsecretaria de Estado en los Despachos de Desarrollo e Inclusion Social
- Abogado Ramón Fernando Carranza Discua, Subsecretario de Estrado en los Despachos de Trabajo y Seguridad Social
- Licenciada Ana Aminta Madrid Paz, Presidenta Ejecutiva del Instituto Nacional de la Mujer
- Sr. Giampaolo Rizzo Alvarado, Embajador, Representante Permanente Adjunto, Encargado de Negocios a.i., Misión Permanente de Honduras
- Abogada Sagrario Prudott, Jefa del Departamento de Derechos Humanos de la Secretaría de Estado en el Despacho de Seguridad
- Abogada Alma Yaneth Coello, Coordinadora de la Unidad de Prevención de la Violencia del Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (INAM)
- Abogado José Rubén Pineda Rubi, Asistente de Presidencia y Jefe de Protocolo del Poder Judicial